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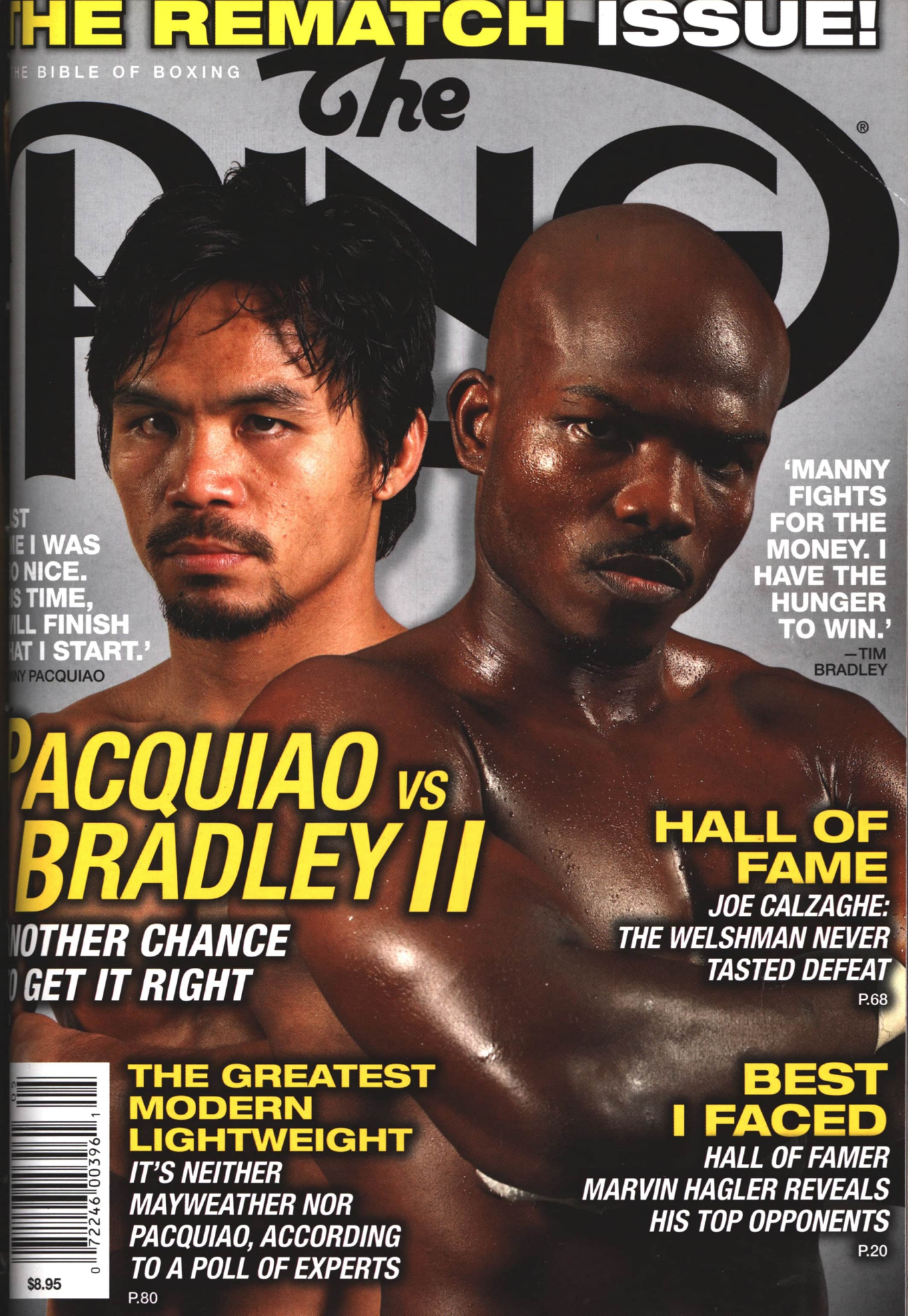

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NY PACQUIAO

'MANNY FIGHTS FOR THE MONEY. I HAVE THE HUNGER TO WIN.'
—TIM BRADLEY

PACQUIAO VS BRADLEY II

NOTHER CHANCE
O GET IT RIGHT

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BEST I FACED

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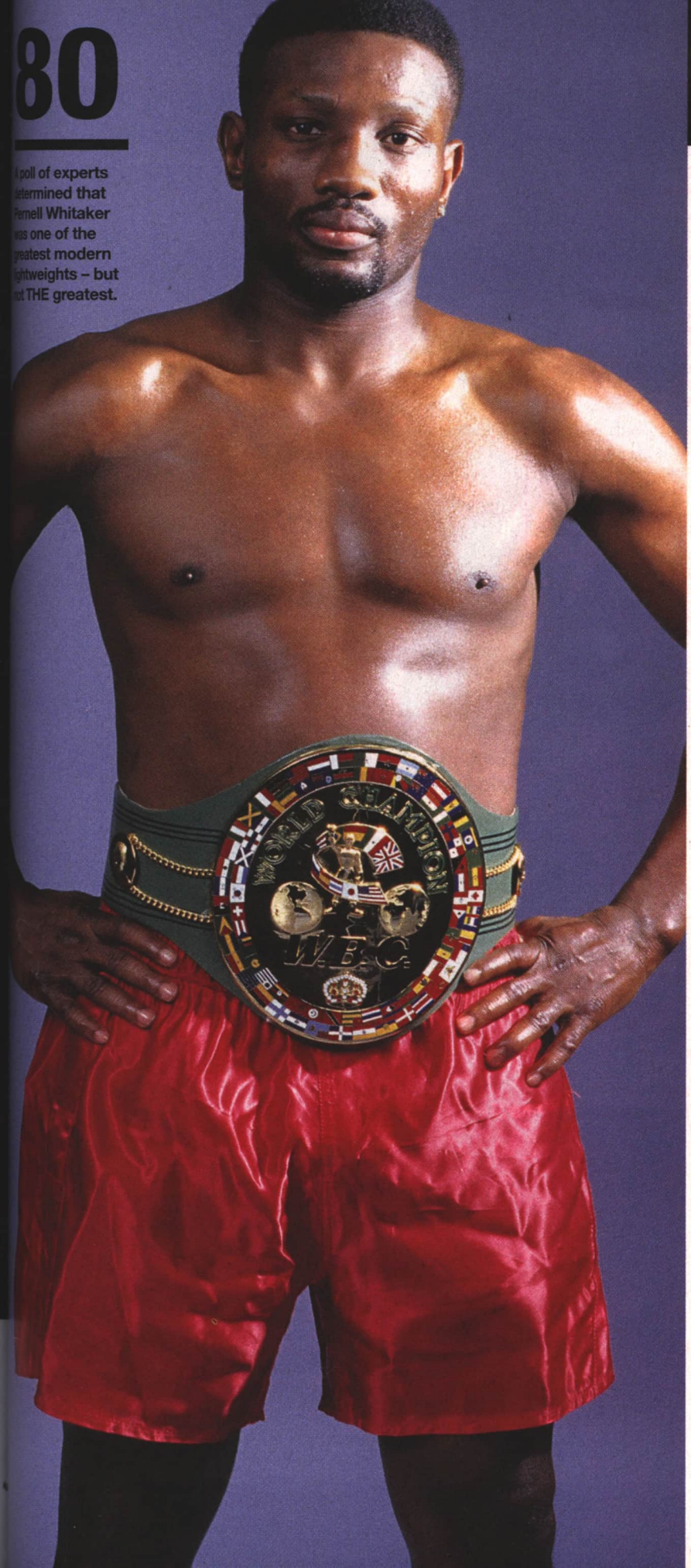

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The RING

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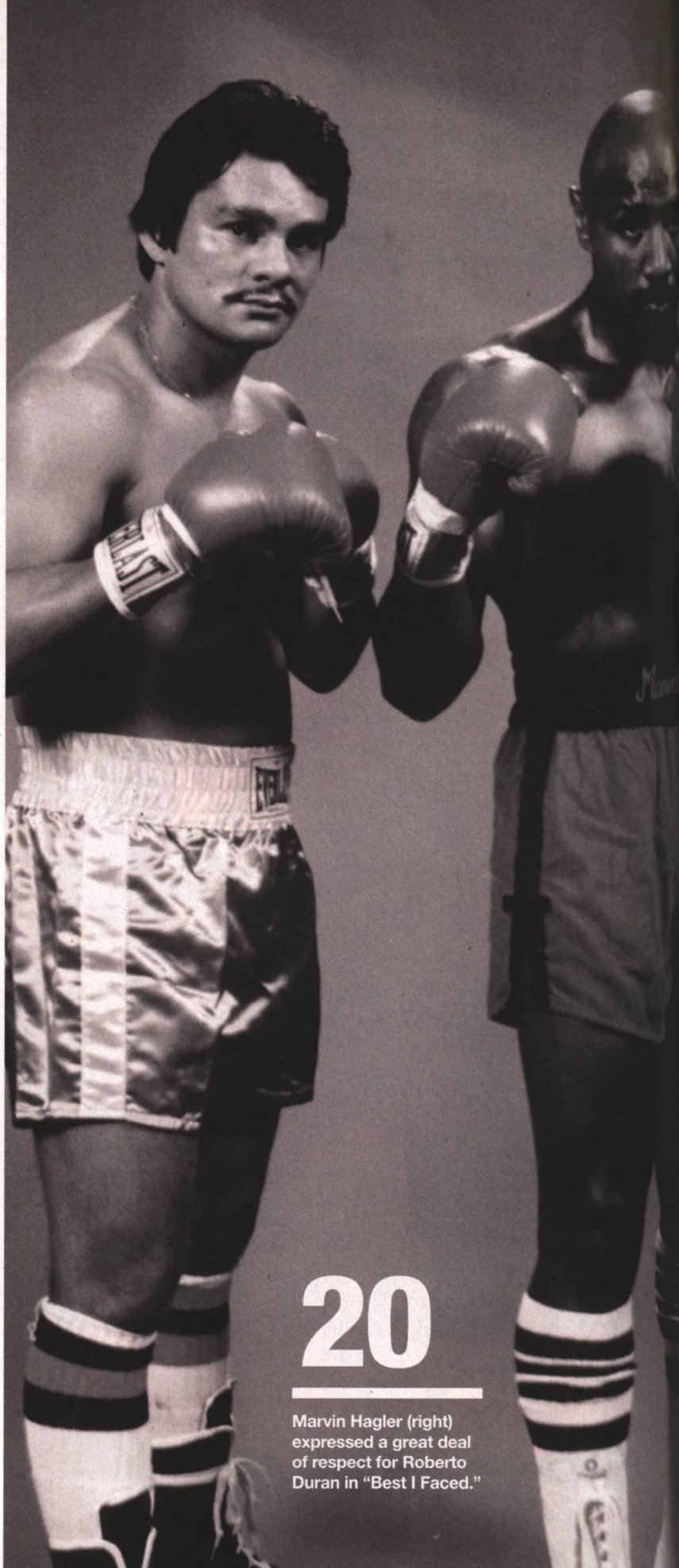

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Marvin Hagler (right) expressed a great deal of respect for Roberto Duran in "Best I Faced."

The RING

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IN THE NICK OF TIME

THE FACT it took Floyd Mayweather Jr. an unusually long time to announce that he would fight Marcos Maidana on May 3 put THE RING staff in a tricky position.

Mayweather hadn't made the announcement by Feb. 21, our deadline to have the May 2014 issue completed and sent to the printer. Thus, any reference in the magazine to the May 3 fight was made without knowing whether Mayweather had selected Maidana or Amir Khan – his two finalists – as his next opponent.

The editors believed by that time that Maidana had become the frontrunner but we couldn't run with that news until it was official. We would have to wait until the June issue, which wasn't ideal but the best we could do.

Then, only hours before our fate was sealed, we lucked out.

Mayweather announced on the evening of Feb. 24 – his 37th birthday – that he had selected Maidana over Khan. That was three days past our deadline. However, fortunately, the printing company allows us some wiggle room just in case something like this happens.

We went into scramble mode. I was able to write this column and contributor Tim Smith had time to re-write his opinion piece that starts on Page 56.

Again, no one was surprised that Maidana was the choice. Khan, who at one point believed an agreement was in place, on Feb. 21 indicated in a rant on Twitter that he had been passed over. He was right.

Mayweather and his handlers evidently decided that Maidana, coming off his dramatic upset over then-undefeated Adrien Broner in December, would generate more pay-per-view buys than Khan would have.

Khan lost back-to-back fights in 2011 and 2012 and barely got past Julio Diaz in his most recent fight, in April of last year.

"Marcos Maidana's last performance immediately brought him to my attention," Mayweather said in a statement. "He is an extremely skilled fighter who brings knockout danger to the ring. I think this is a great fight for me and he deserves the opportunity to see if he can do what 45 others have tried to do before him: Beat me."

Mayweather had some explaining to do in one regard: He had announced earlier that he would allow fans to determine his next opponent by voting for either Khan or Maidana on his website using social media.

Khan was the runaway winner, which was predictable given that his following on social media dwarfed that of Maidana. Fans voting in a number of other polls – including one on RingTV.com – preferred Maidana.

"Bottom line, we took a look at everything that was coming through on the various outlets, and we're fighting the very best guy out there," Mayweather advisor Leonard Ellerbe told Yahoo! Sports.

The site of the fight had not been determined, with the MGM Grand in Las Vegas – the site of Mayweather's last eight fights going back seven years – and Barclays Center, in Brooklyn, N.Y., being considered.

The important news was out, though. Mayweather finally had his opponent. Maidana had the biggest fight and payday of his career. And THE RING had its story.

Luis Collazo is overwhelmed by emotion after his knockout of Victor Ortiz – Collazo's most important victory in years – on Jan. 30 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

American heavyweight prospect Bryant Jennings (left) lands one on the button during his 10th-round knockout of Artur Szpilka on Jan. 25 in New York City.

Lamont Peterson (right) was ferocious and effective in his unanimous-decision victory over Dierry Jean on Jan. 25 in Washington, D.C.

BRADLEY THE UNDERDOG?

As a fan of Timothy Bradley, I'm shocked he is the underdog going into his rematch with Manny Pacquiao on April 12. Bradley has improved every fight, showing new aspects to his arsenal each time. Against Ruslan Provodnikov, he showed he has the heart to fight through anything you put in front of him. Against Juan Manuel Marquez, he showed he can be a very smart and disciplined fighter. And against Pacquiao in their first fight, he saw how Pacquiao works angles and traps in the ring. Bradley fought well in that fight for someone with two bad ankles. And he's improved while Pacquiao has declined, in my opinion. Bradley is 30 years old and entering his prime. He can box, he can brawl, he can fight going forward and backward, he moves well, he has improved defense, he's always the stronger fighter in the ring, and he has more heart and determination than any fighter in boxing. I'm picking Timothy Bradley to win this fight very easily and maybe get a knockout.

Michael Morgan
Angleton, Texas

BRADLEY WILL WIN

Pacquiao vs. Bradley II is an interesting fight because Bradley is not the same fighter Pacquiao fought the first time. For starters, he went through a war with Ruslan Provodnikov, a war that made him stronger and more confident that he can fight to the end. Then he fought Juan Manuel Marquez, a fighter who beat Pacquiao and maybe the most technical boxer out there with massive experience. That didn't bother Bradley, who outboxed, outsmarted and outpunched Marquez en route to a split decision that I thought shouldn't have been that close. Pacquiao was knocked out cold by Marquez and is coming off a victory over Brandon Rios, a fighter who is slow, has no defense and has more guts than skills. In my opinion, Bradley has the momentum coming into this fight. He knows Pacquiao is still dangerous but also vulnerable and beatable. I think the world is going to see a "Desert Storm" on April 12 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Miguel Anyony Vega Leon
Hialeah, Fla.

ONE VOTE FOR PACQUIAO

I think the Pacquiao-Bradley rematch will be considered the Fight of the Year. I see Pacquiao winning by a split decision, but it will be a really close fight. Bradley is now a more experienced and confident fighter, but it still is not enough to beat Pacquiao. Paquiao showed in his last fight (against Brandon Rios) that he is still an elite fighter and a legitimate threat to beat Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Ablai Gazizov
Atyrau, Kazakhstan

ANOTHER INTRIGUING FIGHT

I think that with the element of surprise now being removed, George Groves will have to stop Carl Froch in the early rounds – by the fifth at the latest – to win the rematch on May 31. This could happen if Groves can capitalize on his superior boxing skills. Can Froch go to the well again in terms of taking punishment? This remains to be seen. Father Time might have a part to play. But Froch definitely won't take Groves as lightly as he did the last time. If the fight goes to the late rounds, I favor Froch to finish off the challenger. All in all, it should be another intriguing fight.

Tim O'Neill
Leicester, England

NO THANKS, DANA

"My intention with this show is to turn it into something that creates new boxing talent," Dana White said about his reality show, *The Fighters*, in the March 2014 issue. No thank you, Dana White. The sport doesn't need you. There is an amateur boxing program in this country and around the world that caters to aspiring champions of tomorrow. That young talent is cultivated through local, national and international events. As a coach, I entered boxers in all four of the 2012 Olympic qualifying tournaments and in local tournaments before that. I've witnessed many boxers and coaches who worked hard and sacrificed much to win their rightful spot in a very competitive field. So what you are proposing to do for amateur boxing has been done for decades. Perhaps you should focus on establishing a mixed martial arts amateur program. And remember: There are no shortcuts to greatness, not even in the age of reality TV.

David Douglas
Dallas

SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS

I just wanted to quickly email you about Alfredo Angulo donating his hair to Locks of Love [at a news conference before his fight against Canelo Alvarez]. It was just a wonderful and really classy thing he did. It was a perfect example of the way a professional athlete can use his fame to make a difference. Big, big props to Angulo for doing it, and for doing it in a public setting. I have donated my hair three times now, and am currently working on a fourth.

Matt Jones
Neutral Bay, Australia

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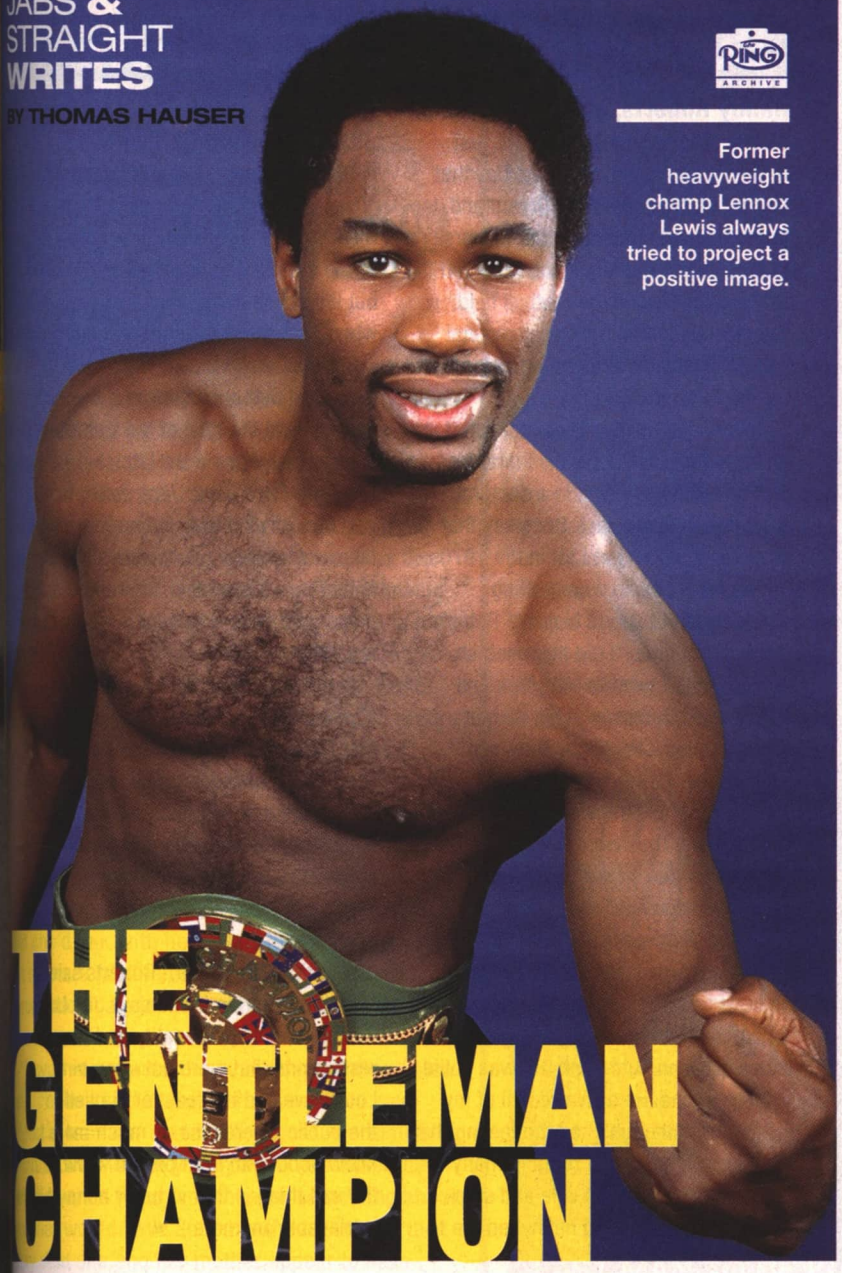
JABS & STRAIGHT WRITES

BY THOMAS HAUSER



Former heavyweight champ Lennox Lewis always tried to project a positive image.

THE GENTLEMAN CHAMPION

LENNOX LEWIS WAS NOT ONLY ONE OF THE BEST HEAVYWEIGHTS EVER, HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE CLASSIEST

A significant date passed largely unnoticed earlier this year. Feb. 6 marked the 10th anniversary of Lennox Lewis' retirement from boxing. That has special meaning for me.

Lewis knocked out Mike Tyson on June 8, 2002, in Memphis to solidify his status as the best heavyweight in boxing. His only bout after that was a June 6, 2003, battle against Vitali Klitschko in which Lennox struggled early before stopping Klitschko on cuts.

Fast forward to January 2004. It was a bitter cold day in New York. Lewis asked if I'd meet with him at an office he maintained in midtown. When I got there, he posed the question: "If I retire now without fighting a rematch against Klitschko, do you think it will hurt my legacy?"

"No," I answered. "Five years from now, people will look at your record, and all they'll see next to Vitali's name is 'KO 6.' If you never fight again, you'll go down in history as the dominant heavyweight of your time and the man who broke the American stranglehold on the heavyweight title. You'll also be one of only three heavyweight champions who retired while still champion and stayed retired."

"I know Rocky Marciano was one," Lennox responded. "Who was the other?"

"Gene Tunney."

"Tunney was white, wasn't he?"

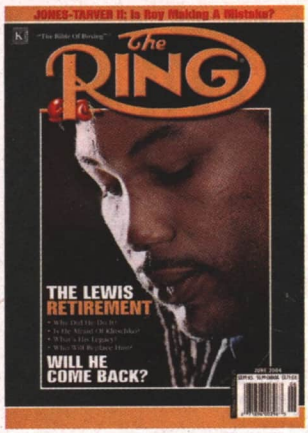
"Yes."

There was a pause for reflection.

"All right," Lennox said. "Will you write a retirement speech for me?"

We talked for a while about the thoughts that Lennox wanted to express. Among the things he said the following month in announcing his retirement were:

- "Deciding to end my career as a professional boxer was not an easy decision to make. In many ways, continuing to fight would be the easiest course of action. I've been offered millions of dollars to fight again, which is all the more tempting because I believe that there are more championship-quality fights in me."
- "Being heavyweight champion is a role that carries with it responsibilities that go far beyond the ring. As a competitor, as a professional, and as a human being, I have tried to do my best to fulfill these responsibilities. I've tried to treat people with respect. I've tried to demonstrate the importance of hard work and



sacrifice in achieving goals. I have lived by the code that, if a job is worth doing, it should be done properly."

- "A special thank you to each of the men I've fought. They are part of my story, and their names will go down in history in the record book next to mine."
- "Emanuel Steward did as much for me as any trainer ever did for a boxer. There were times when Manny believed in me more than I believed in myself."
- "I am proud that I have the luxury of ending my career on my own terms."

Lennox is 48 years old now. During the past decade, he has resisted offers of tens of millions of dollars to come out of retirement. He has maintained his dignity and will always be a champion. ★

BOXING IN A SOCIETAL CONTEXT

Randy Roberts, a professor of history at Purdue University, has just written a book entitled *Rising Tide* that chronicles the years Bear Bryant and Joe Namath spent together at the University of Alabama. It's an engaging read that reaches far beyond the football field. But placing sports in a larger societal context is standard operating procedure for Roberts.

Roberts has written four books that are an important part of boxing literature. The first had its origins in a doctoral dissertation about Jack Dempsey that he wrote as a student at LSU in the 1970s.

"Very few people were writing seriously about sports history," Roberts says of that time. "I did my research. At one point, I went to New York and interviewed Dempsey at his restaurant. He was in his late-70s by then and couldn't have been nicer. The first thing that struck me was how big his hands were. They were enormous. When we shook hands, my hand all but disappeared in his."

"We sat at the premier table in front of the restaurant, right by the window," Roberts said. "People were constantly coming over to shake Dempsey's hand and ask for an autograph. He was polite with everyone. He answered all of my questions, although I had the feeling that he'd been asked most of them many times before. Then his wife and step-daughter came in, and he invited me to join them for dinner.

"I was a graduate student and a man of limited means," Roberts continued. "Dempsey kept saying, 'Have the steak. Have the cheesecake.' Part of me was afraid that I'd end up washing dishes, but it was his treat. I was floating on air when I left the restaurant that night."

Roberts' dissertation, which was expanded and published as a book in 1979, is still the best of the Dempsey biographies. Four years later, he authored *Papa Jack: Jack Johnson and the Era of White Hopes.* That was followed by *Heavy Justice* (a study of Mike Tyson's rape trial, co-authored with prosecutor Greg Garrison) and *Joe Louis: Hard Times Man.*

At present, Roberts is researching a book that will focus on the years that Cassius Clay joined the Nation of Islam and evolved into Muhammad Ali. That leads to the question: "If Roberts could spend a day with any of his five subjects – Johnson, Dempsey, Louis, Ali, Tyson – in his prime, which one would he choose?"

"That's a tough one," Roberts said. "But the historian in me says Joe Louis. Because of his personality and the restrictions that were put upon him, Louis revealed the least of himself to the public. There was so much more to know about him than people knew. And the sad thing is that virtually none of it is retrievable anymore." ★

'REFRESHING, TO SAY THE LEAST'

This one is for aging boxing fans who suffer through ear-splitting rap music when they go to the fights.

Dmitriy Salita's Star of David Promotions recently hosted a night of club fights at Webster Hall in New York. One of the people in attendance was venerable publicist Bill Caplan, who grimaced through the music and recounted a night at the fights with his good friend Don Chargin.

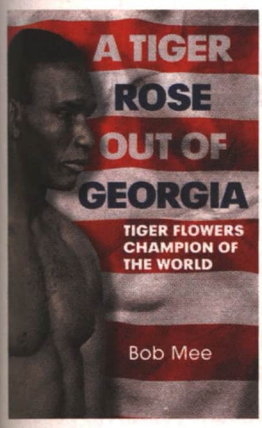
Chargin promoted his first fight card at age 23. Six decades later, he's still going strong. Chargin promoted a night at the fights on Aug. 25, 2012, at The Sports Center in Fairfield, Calif. Earlier in the day, Caplan had given him a CD of Frank Sinatra's greatest hits. Knowing a good thing when he heard it, Chargin handed the CD to the arena DJ and told him, "This is what you play between fights tonight."

"What about the fighters' ringwalk music?"

"They can walk out to Sinatra," Chargin instructed. "If you play anything else, you're fired."

"None of the fighters or fans complained," Caplan said. "It was refreshing, to say the least." ★

Frank Sinatra (center) is pictured with Jack Dempsey and Joe Louis.



FLOWERS: THE BRIDGE FROM JOHNSON TO LOUIS

British boxing writer Bob Mee, who doubles as a commentator for Sky Sports, faced a different sort of retrieval problem while writing *A Tiger Rose Out of Georgia*.

Tiger Flowers, who was born in rural Georgia and lived for much of his life in Atlanta, was the first black athlete to gain a widespread following among southern whites. In 1926, he added to his laurels by decisioning Harry Greb to become the first black middleweight champion of the world. Twenty-one months later, both Flowers and Greb were dead, the tragic consequence of "minor" surgeries gone wrong.

In 2012, after a long search, Mee tracked down Verna Lee Jackson, Flowers' only child. They spoke briefly on the telephone. Jackson, then 90 years old, was living in Los Angeles. She told Mee that she'd talk with her family about whether or not to share her memories of her father. Then unrealistic financial demands were made, and the interview never took place.

"It was very frustrating and disappointing," Mee said. "I don't know what Verna Lee could have added in terms of detailed firsthand information because she was so young when her father died. But she would have remembered something about him that would have added to the breadth of the story. And she and her mother appear to have lived together until the early 1940s, which means she would have heard her mother's stories about Flowers and their lives together."

Meanwhile, Mee writes of his subject, "Flowers built a bridge that led from Jack Johnson to Joe Louis, from the days when an African-American athlete was despised and whose success provoked anger and violence to the time when [after Louis defeated Max Schmeling in 1938] a man with African blood became the celebrated representative of the nation. Flowers would probably have laughed if anyone had suggested he had improved the way life was. But Louis was tolerated as his life began to take shape partly because of the example set by Flowers." ★

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TYPICAL HOPKINS

Hundreds gathered at the 44th Annual New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Nov. 14 at the elegant Venetian in Garfield, N.J., to honor the Class of 2013. • The event wasn't short on star power. Boxing icons Mike Tyson and Marvin Hagler were among a long list of inductees, which also included veteran RING Magazine contributor and former *Philadelphia Daily News* writer Bernard Fernandez. • Broadcaster and writer Steve Farhood had been scheduled to introduce Fernandez during the ceremony but had to pull out at the last minute because of an urgent family matter. • Enter one more star: Bernard Hopkins, a future Hall of Famer himself and a longtime friend of Fernandez. "The Executioner" was unprepared but also undaunted. He scribbled notes onto some napkins and gave an impassioned speech for a deserving inductee. • He wasn't quite finished, though. As Fernandez spoke, a small crowd that had gathered around Tyson a few feet from the dais became so loud that no one could hear the man being honored at that moment. • It was Hopkins to the rescue again. He grabbed the microphone from Fernandez and scolded the audience. • "This man deserves your respect, and you're going to give it to him!" Hopkins demanded. "This is Bernie Fernandez's moment, and you're not going to take it away from him. So please, let this man have his time!" • The banquet hall fell silent, and Fernandez continued. • Hopkins might come off as a cold-hearted assassin to those who don't know him, a persona he has cultivated during his remarkable boxing career. But just below the surface is a big-hearted man who frequently thinks of others. How refreshing is that in today's landscape of selfish stars?

— Joseph Santoliquito

QUICK QUIZ

1. PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS PAINTING IN SPORTS SHOWS LUIS FIRPO KNOCKING JACK DEMPSEY THROUGH THE ROPES IN THEIR 1923 BOUT AT THE POLO GROUNDS IN NEW YORK. WHO WAS THE ARTIST?

2. JOE LOUIS SCORED 52 KNOCKOUTS IN HIS LEGENDARY CAREER. WHO WAS THE LAST MAN TO BE KNOCKED OUT BY THE BROWN BOMBER?

3. JOE FRAZIER LOST FOUR TIMES IN HIS RING CAREER. WHO BEAT HIM?

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS:
1. George Bellows.
2. Louis scored a sixth-round knockout over Lee Savold on June 15, 1951. He had three fights after that, winning 10-round decisions over Cesar Brion and Jimmy Bivins before ending his career on an eighth-round knockout loss to Rocky Marciano on Oct. 26, 1951.
3. Frazier lost by decision to Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden in 1974 and by TKO in the Philippines in 1975. George Foreman knocked Smokin' Joe out in 1973 and 1976.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Straight Writes and Jabs: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES

Manny Pacquiao hasn't knocked out an opponent in about 4½ years.

A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

10

This month: Manny Pacquiao, who faces Timothy Bradley on April 12, is known in part for his punching power. Of his 55 victories, an impressive 38 have come by stoppage. However, he hasn't stopped many opponents in recent years. He needed more than 10 years (and 22 fights) to record his last 10 knockouts. Here they are.

2009 Miguel Cotto **TKO 12**

2009 Ricky Hatton **KO 2**

2008 Oscar De La Hoya **TKO 8**

2008 David Diaz **TKO 9**

2007 Jorge Solis **KO 8**

2006 Erik Morales **KO 3**

2006 Morales **TKO 10**

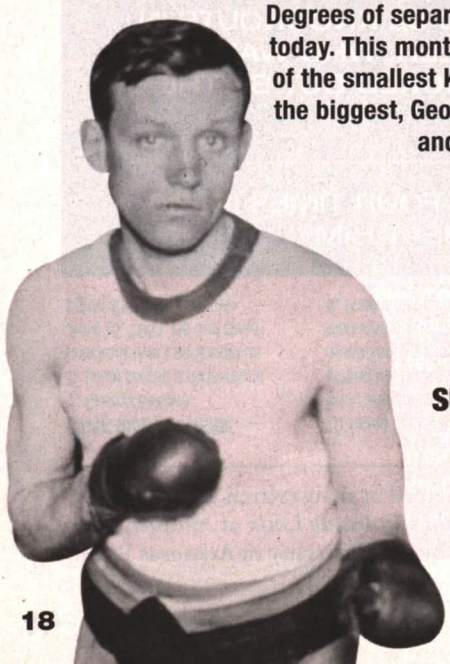
2005 Hector Velazquez **TKO 6**

2004 Fahsan 3K Battery **TKO 4**

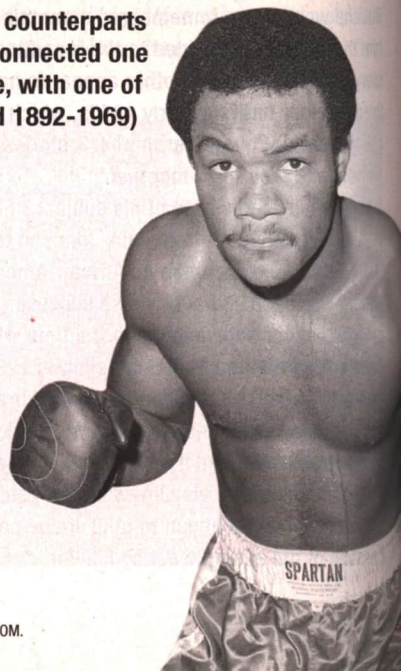
2003 Marco Antonio Barrera **TKO 11**

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of the past and their counterparts today. This month, reader Adam Molnar of Whitby, Canada, connected one of the smallest knockout artists ever, flyweight Jimmy Wilde, with one of the biggest, George Foreman, in only nine steps. Wilde (lived 1892-1969) and Foreman (1949-) had a combined 167 KOs.



« **JIMMY WILDE** fought …
PANCHO VILLA who fought …
JIMMY MCLARNIN who fought …
BARNEY ROSS who fought …
HENRY ARMSTRONG who fought …
SUGAR RAY ROBINSON who fought …
JOEY MAXIM who fought…
FLOYD PATTERSON who fought …
MUHAMMAD ALI who fought …
GEORGE FOREMAN »



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GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

Carl Froch didn't have to give young George Groves a rematch after Froch's controversial ninth-round knockout victory in November. The British star preferred either a rematch with Andre Ward, who outpointed him in 2011, or a matchup with Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. at a venue in the U.S. Froch reportedly has said he wants to end his career in Las Vegas. Instead, when it became clear to him that that the fans wanted him to face Groves a second time, he relented. The fact the IBF gave him an ultimatum – give Groves a rematch or lose your belt – also was a factor. As was any possible perception that he was afraid of Groves. No one has more pride than "The Cobra." However, in the end, he did what too few fighters do these days: He did what the fans wanted him to do. That's all that counts. The result is one of the most intriguing fights on the boxing schedule, one sure to capture the imagination of not only the Brits but fans worldwide.

BAD

Floyd Mayweather Jr. is more interested in money than challenges. And, in a sense, I can't blame him. I might conduct myself in the same manner given the amount of money he commands. I just wish it were different. I wish Mayweather behaved as I perceive his pugilistic ancestors did, rushing toward difficult fights and not away. In my perfect world, Mayweather would put his differences with Bob Arum aside and fight the winner of the Manny Pacquiao-Tim Bradley fight. Even more intriguing might be talented middleweight Gennady Golovkin, who is close enough to Mayweather's size for that fight to make sense. Legends like Mickey Walker and Henry Armstrong would've faced Golovkin without hesitation. Instead, Mayweather will fight Marcos Maidana on May 3. Maidana is an exciting fighter and is coming off a dramatic upset over Adrien Broner, but he won't be perceived as a genuine threat to Mayweather. That's a shame when genuine threats might exist.

WORSE

I hesitate to criticize Mayweather for the way he handled the selection of his next opponent. Of course, he has the right to weigh his options and make the announcement whenever he's ready. I can say this, though: The fact the process dragged on seemingly forever created a mess. Khan, for so long the leading candidate, unleashed a rant on Twitter expressing his frustration and indicating that Maidana had gotten the nod. Mayweather did appear to waste Khan's time. Arum, who has no connection to Mayweather, couldn't resist butting in to criticize Mayweather for the way he treated Khan. Promoter Richard Schaefer, Mayweather's ally, then had no choice but to defend his fighter by firing back at his nemesis Arum. And there was Mayweather's silly poll allowing his fans to choose his opponent, as if he would allow that to happen. 'Money' probably figures all the drama will only help sell the fight. I'm not so sure. As one boxing observer put it as the process dragged into late February: "Who cares?"

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

By **Anson Wainwright**

RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

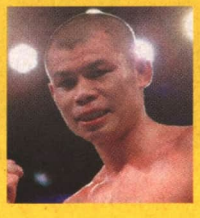
WBO junior welterweight titleholder

MUSIC – "'Gonna Fly Now' [theme from *Rocky*]." ★ **CAR –** "Chevrolet Camaro." ★ **FOOD –** "Meat, fish, vegetables." ★ **TATTOOS –** "None." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING –** "Alexei Nemov [gymnast]." ★ **MOVIE –** "*Knockdown* and *Love and Doves* [*Lyubov i Golubi*, Russian]." ★ **VIDEO GAME –** "Do not play."

JORGE LINARES

Lightweight contender

MUSIC – "I like the song 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke." ★ **CAR –** "BMW M3." ★ **FOOD –** "Everything Japanese." ★ **TATTOOS –** "Yes, gloves and name on my shoulder." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING –** "Maria Sharapova." ★ **MOVIE –** "Action movies with Jason Statham." ★ **VIDEO GAME –** "*Winning Eleven* [Soccer game]."



CHRIS JOHN

Former WBA featherweight titleholder (retired)

MUSIC – "I like the band Bon Jovi. My favorite type of music is pop." ★ **CAR –** "Mazda2." ★ **FOOD –** "Asian." ★ **TATTOOS –** "No tattoos." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING –** "Lionel Messi." ★ **MOVIE –** "I like action, comedy and horror." ★ **VIDEO GAME –** "*Street Fighter.*"

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

RingTV.com readers made it clear who they believe will win on April 12 in Las Vegas? We asked: What will be the result of Manny Pacquiao vs. Tim Bradley II?? **Here is how you responded.**

THE PERCENTAGES:

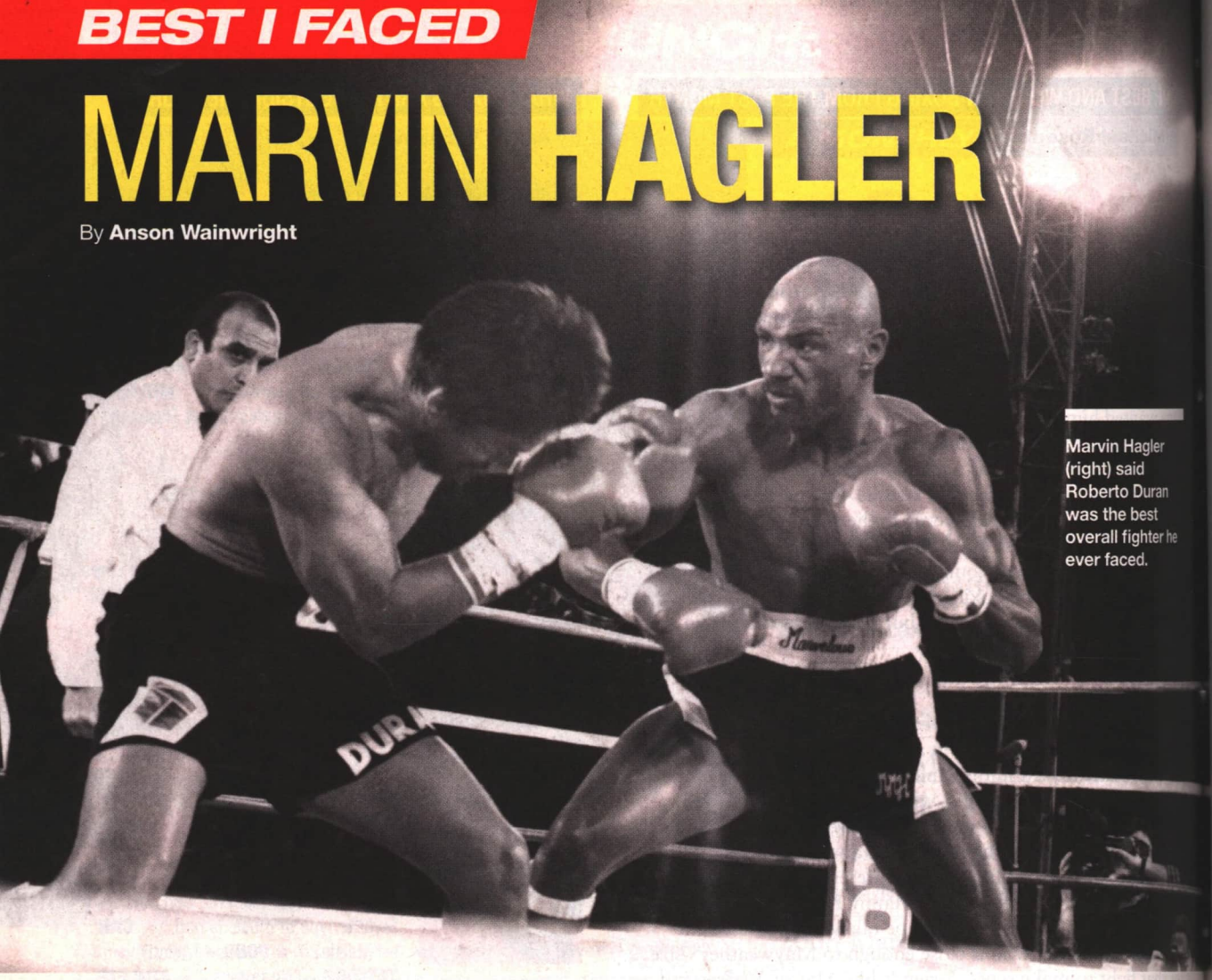
Pacquiao by KO	42.0
Pacquiao by decision	36.0
Bradley by decision	17.3
Bradley by KO	3.5
Draw	1.2

Note: 5,739 readers voted

WILDE/FOREMAN: THE RING MAGAZINE; PACQUIAO: AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES; PROVODNIKOV: DOUG PENSINGER; LINARES/JOHN: AFP

MARVIN HAGLER

By **Anson Wainwright**



Marvin Hagler (right) said Roberto Duran was the best overall fighter he ever faced.

Marvin Hagler lived up to what became his legal name: "Marvelous."

Hagler was a breathtaking hurting machine at his best, a very good, aggressive boxer with tremendous punching power and one of the best chins of all time. He insisted the only knockdown of his career, against Juan Roldan, was a slip.

Hagler lost two times relatively early in his career but then went 36-0-1, the blemish being a controversial 1979 draw against Vito Antuofermo in his first title fight.

Some considered Hagler the best middleweight in the world even before September of 1980 when he fought Allen Minter for the RING, WBC and WBA titles in London. Hagler won when Minter could not go on because of a cut, marking the beginning of one of the division's greatest runs.

Hagler made 12 successful defenses over five-plus years, 11 by knockout, and also picked up the IBF title along the way. Among his victims: Roberto Duran (UD 15), Thomas Hearns (TKO 3) and John Mugabi (KO 11).

The Hearns fight is remembered as one of the greatest of all time, as the principals exchanged murderous punches at a frenetic pace from the opening bell. Hagler was cut over both eyes but continued to press Hearns until finally hammering his adversary to the canvas at 1:52 of the third round. Hearns didn't get up.

"With Tommy Hearns, finally they gave me what I'm looking for," Hagler told THE RING. "I knew it was going to be that kind of a fight because [during] the buildup to the fight, he didn't like me, I didn't like him."

Hagler would be named THE RING Fighter of the Year in 1983 and 1985. His victory over Mugabi in 1986 set up a showdown the following year against Sugar Ray Leonard, who was making a comeback after almost three years out of the ring.

Hagler found his groove after a slow start but it wasn't enough to prevent Leonard from winning a split decision, which Hagler still disputes today.

"I didn't really feel I lost," said Hagler, who then mentioned his early

setbacks – both of which he avenged by knockout – and Leonard's refusal to give him a rematch. "... They were a learning experience, they put a lot of hatred into my war game. I think ... Leonard looked at my record and said, 'Hagler, forget you man! You think I'm crazy?'

"If the shoe was on the other foot, I'd have gave him a rematch because it shows the mark of a champion."

Hagler (62-3-2, 52 knockouts) retired from boxing following the Leonard fight. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1993.

"Why do you want to hang around after all your hard work and let someone get lucky and destroy your record?" he asked. "After I had nothing to prove to myself, it was the best thing to walk away."

Hagler wishes he could've faced fellow legend Carlos Monzon. The great Argentine retired in 1977, when Hagler was becoming a contender.

"I think it would have been an interesting fight if I had fought Carlos Monzon," he said. "I think he was a great champion. I believe I would have caused some sort of problem for him."

Hagler, who turns 60 in May, lives primarily in Italy. He took time out of his busy schedule to speak with THE RING about the best fighters he fought in a variety of categories.

BEST OVERALL

Roberto Duran: I would say Roberto Duran was very experienced, plus he was a three-time world champion when I fought him. I gave him the opportunity to win a fourth, which didn't happen. (Laughs.)

BEST BOXER

Duran: I would still say Roberto Duran. I loved that fight the most because between the both of us it brought out our skill, our talent. For me wanting to defend my title, for him wanting the fourth title, I mean it became a cat and mouse game. I enjoyed that fight, it was exciting.

BEST JAB

Thomas Hearns: He was a person who was trying to stick and move, he used his jab a lot. He had a great jab.

BEST DEFENSE

Ray Leonard: He didn't come to fight, he came to last. He came to go the distance, he didn't come to knock me out. He just wanted to survive, so I would have to say he used his best defense to survive.

BEST CHIN

Alan Minter: Believe it or not, I have to give it to Alan Minter because he was champion and he didn't want to lose. I hit this guy with a lot of punches, and he took a couple on the chin. I was amazed. I knew this was what I wanted, and I wasn't going to stop. Unfortunately he bled early. I was still trying to knock him out with every shot. He took a lot of punishment.

BEST PUNCHER

John Mugabi and Hearns: Because they came to fight. They came to take my title from me. Mugabi hit me with an uppercut. It didn't hurt, but it was a hard punch, and I learned something from that. I had to regroup and come up with a different strategy. Also, with Tommy Hearns, he hit me with one good right hand, a good shot. I knew then that was his hardest punch, and I wanted more. I got more aggressive. I realized I had to keep the pressure on him, make him move and make him throw that right hand so he would leave an opening for me.

FASTEST HANDS

Duran: He caught me for three rounds at the start of the fight, which I didn't understand. He caught me with an overhand right. As soon as I would jab, he'd throw the right hand. It didn't hurt me too much, but it was annoying, aggravating. I really didn't know what was happening, so I went back to the corner and asked my cornerman. I said, "What's happening?" He said, "Marv, what he's doing is that he's timing you. Every time you shoot that jab out, he'll go over with a right hand." After [that], I started faking instead of just throwing it, and I started getting a better offense going.

FASTEST FEET

Leonard: You would have to say Leonard because he didn't [just] move, he ran. It was hard to catch him. I wanted to fight because that's what I am, I'm a champion. I'm a fighter and came to fight. I believe in that fight I came in as an underdog. This guy didn't want to take away my title, he wanted to survive, and it's hard to beat a guy who just wants to survive.

SMARTEST

All of them (laughs): Because when they stepped in the ring with me, they already knew the deal: It was going to be a tough fight. They had to use their skills, their brain, their physical and mental attitude against me because I was very unorthodox. I could fight on the left-hand side and right-hand side. So they had to probably train harder to adapt to my style. But every fighter I fought, I never fought the same way. Each fight I had I was always in better condition than I was before.

STRONGEST

Mugabi and Tony Sibson: I remember seeing Tony Sibson at the weigh-in. This guy was strong. I remember when he hit me on the chest, he looked much stronger and bigger than me, and he's supposed to be a middleweight. Mugabi, I believe he put on more weight before the fight. I could feel his body against me. He felt like a light heavyweight, he didn't feel like a middleweight. ... When he threw punches, they were all deadly, very hard punches. This guy felt like a light heavyweight to me, so I had to wear him down, to take away some of that strength.

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Lindsay Irrthum

Height: 5 feet 5 inches
Weight: 110 pounds
Measurements: 32-24-34
Stance: Orthodox
Reach: 24 inches
Favorite boxer: Manny Pacquiao
Hometown: Eden Prairie, Minn.
Current location: Las Vegas
Where you've seen her: Featured in a Carl's Jr. commercial that aired at Los Angeles Kings hockey games, the cover of *Las Vegas Magazine* for the Super Bowl, featured model in *Sophisticate's Hairstyle Guide* magazine.
Booking info: lsi1989@aol.com

CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH

By David Greisman

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

PASCAL VS. BUTE IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF A FIGHT THAT SHOULD'VE HAPPENED EARLIER

They say that good things come to those who wait. If boxing fans believe that, then they are fools. The truth is that many of the big fights they want that aren't happening, won't happen. And even when some of these fights finally do get made, they won't mean anywhere near as much as they once would have.

We've learned this again and again with the failure to make Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Manny Pacquiao, with the clash between Juan Manuel Lopez and Yuriorkis Gamboa marinating until it spoiled, with the rematch between Bernard Hopkins and Roy Jones Jr. coming far too late in their careers, and with the shell of Mike Tyson getting shellacked by Lennox Lewis.

If you hadn't already recognized the sad reality of a business that shoots itself in the foot by delaying the inevitable, then you got a sobering reminder earlier this year when Jean Pascal and Lucian Bute finally met in a Montreal ring.

These franchise fighters, their province's most popular, have clearly faded. Pascal, though just 31, has declined in the years since he beat Chad Dawson for the light heavyweight championship. Bute, who turned 34 in February, was once the No. 2 or 3 super middleweight in the world — and then his career, confidence and chin wound up getting Froch'ed up.

They were kept apart because they were fighting for different promoters, fighting in different divisions, and making money on their own. They didn't need each other. Nor did they want the gravy train (which in Montreal would be the poutine train) to come to a halt.

Unfortunately, some fighters will avoid each other when they feel there's nothing much to gain, and they will only face each other when they feel there's nothing left to lose.

As with Lewis vs. Tyson, a sizable crowd still bought tickets, fueled by nostalgia and the energy of a big event, figuring the bout was better late than never. The Rolling Stones are still selling out concerts as they move into their 70s, even if they can't rock as hard as they once did. Greatest hits albums still sell well.

But boxing isn't the same as music. Oldies are not necessarily goodies. Pascal pretended to be his idol and cornerman, Roy Jones Jr., a cat toying around with a meek mouse. Bute's best offense came in the final two rounds. Before then, he was unwilling to let his hands go, which is one sign of a boxer who needs to let his career go.

The wait to make Pascal-Bute wasn't worth it. Had it come sooner, it could've been even bigger, and it likely would've been far better.

Lucian Bute (left) and Jean Pascal should've fought before both of them slipped up.

★

Sergio Martinez is making Gennady Golovkin wait for a chance to seize the middleweight throne, though there's somewhat of an upside to this. After all, Golovkin is fighting often enough that he's racking up payday after payday from HBO and the occasional European site fee. He's adding to his mystique and building a sizable fan base. Nearly all who have stood across from him have failed to remain standing. His win over Osumanu Adama this past February was the 16th in a row to end early.

Yet it's time for Golovkin to step up. Unfortunately for him, fellow titleholder Peter Quillin is with a rival network, while several of the other top 160-pounders have either

blatantly avoided Golovkin or haven't been able (or willing) to come to terms with him.

World titles, paydays and respect are one thing. Proving to the world that you are the best is another. Up at heavyweight, Bermane Stiverne or Chris Arreola will be elated when one of them wins a vacant heavyweight title in their rematch. But the winner's stature would be even more elevated if he had received an opportunity to defeat Vitali Klitschko for the belt. The passing of the torch is more memorable when it's taken by force.

Alas, Golovkin may very well have to keep waiting. The winner of the fight between Martinez and Miguel Cotto on June 7 will likely seek another huge payday against Mayweather or Canelo Alvarez (assuming Canelo beat Alfredo Angulo, a bout that was held after this issue had already gone to press).

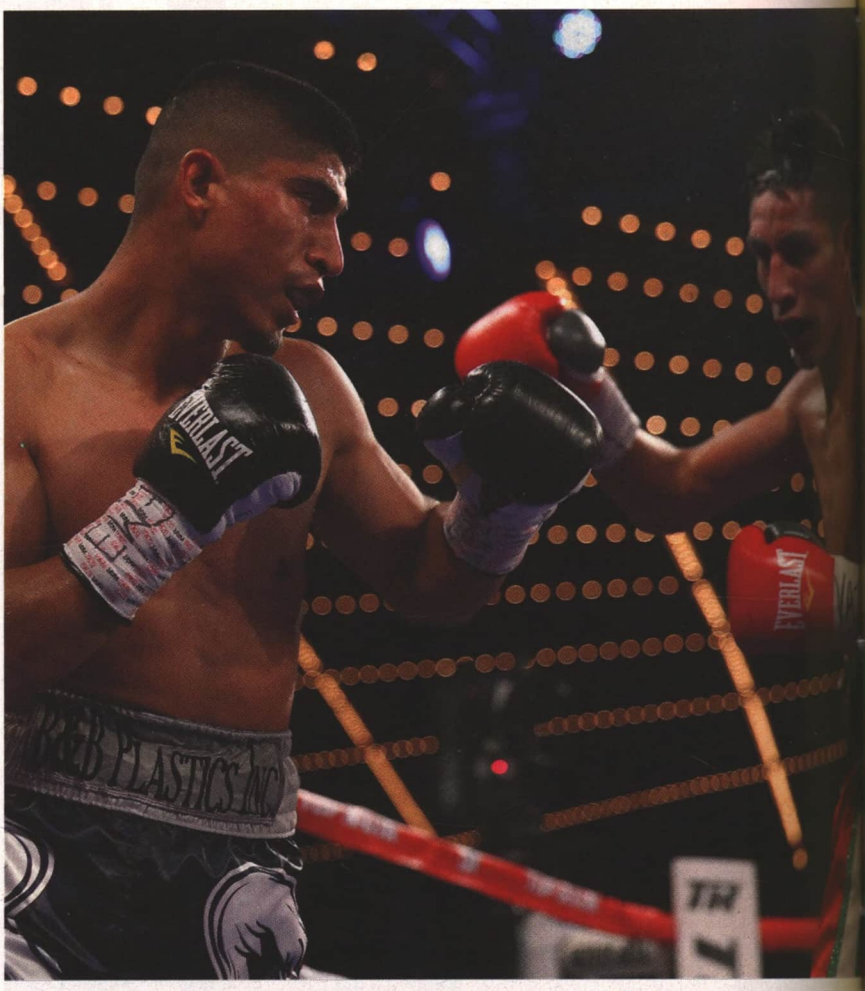
This is the conflict between fighting for prizes and fighting for pride. We want those who are putting their lives on the line for our entertainment to be rewarded in the process, yet we tear into them if they seem to be avoiding certain challenges.

Martinez and Golovkin deserve their respective chances. It's just that their interests don't necessarily align.

★

Mikey Garcia has a pretty sweet deal, one that's reminiscent of Adrien Broner in 2012, albeit with lower ratings and a much lower public profile.

Garcia, like Broner, gets to be built up on HBO in divisions devoid of domestic depth. Since earning the RING featherweight championship a year ago, he has beaten a badly faded Juan Manuel Lopez, moved up to 130 pounds, won a title and then defended it in a pair of respectable wins over Roman Martinez and Juan Carlos Burgos.



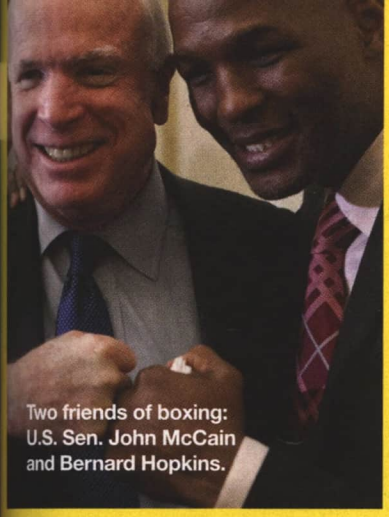
It's time for WBO junior lightweight titleholder Mikey Garcia (left) to face a stiff challenge.

A few of the other top junior lightweights are based in Japan. Others have largely been featured on ESPN2 and don't necessarily have the name recognition that HBO executives might prefer. It says something that the man who may challenge Garcia next is Yuriorkis Gamboa, who was once an HBO darling himself and is now in a position where he might not be back on the network if not for Garcia.

Guillermo Rigondeaux probably wishes he had that deal instead of being persona non grata. Wladimir Klitschko only appears on American airwaves on rare occasions, though unlike Rigondeaux, he has other options.

The networks and promoters all have their horses that they hitch on to. It's understandable why HBO and Top Rank favor the talented Garcia. It'd be more meaningful if he was made to jockey for position with an opponent who could go neck and neck with him — or in this case, toe-to-toe — down the stretch. RING

By **Brian Harty**



Two friends of boxing: U.S. Sen. John McCain and Bernard Hopkins.

CAPITAL IDEAS

The past month saw honest signs of progress toward improving fighter safety. First, the **Association of Ringside Physicians** (ARP) released a statement calling for "the general elimination of therapeutic-use exemptions for testosterone replacement therapy." The growing practice has been criticized by some as a method of essentially using performance-enhancing drugs with a doctor's note, wherein a condition like hypogonadism is diagnosed so that a fighter can legally increase his hormone levels. The ARP noted, however, that cases legitimately requiring the therapy are "extraordinarily rare."

Second, a summit convened in Washington, D.C., to discuss brains – specifically those of people who take punches for a living. On a day that saw several truces, U.S. Sens. **Harry Reid** (D-Nev.) and **John McCain** (R-Ariz.), both former boxers, joined representatives from **Golden Boy, Top Rank** and the **UFC**, as well as fighters from both the ring and the octagon, to unite behind a single cause. They all spoke in support of the **Cleveland Clinic's Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health**, which is about two-thirds toward its goal of enrolling 650 fighters for longterm studies on the neural effects of combat sports. Read more about it on the next page.

The message was underscored by yet another tragedy. Just one day before the summit, Mexican featherweight **Oscar Gonzalez** died from head injuries he had sustained in a 10th-round knockout loss two days earlier.

Sadly, not everything in boxing is about promoting mental health. **George Zimmerman**, who now refers to his 2012 killing of **Trayvon Martin** as "the incident," was set to fight rapper **DMX** (who sports an epic list of crimes) in a three-round matchup. The proposed "incident" was called off after a wave of public protest.

You know it's bad when **Ricardo Mayorga** considers you too offensive to work with, but the former titleholder said as much about **Don King** while denying a report that he was back in the promoter's stable. Not needing King's help to be nutty, Mayorga then called out **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** and said he'd fight for free if he lost.

But everyone can probably agree that even King is no **Adolf Hitler,** whom Top Rank CEO Bob Arum invoked in a critique of Mayweather's bully-ish negotiating methods. Speaking with ABS-CBN, Arum expanded his WWII analogy to compare **Manny Pacquiao** to **Winston Churchill.**

In England, snubbed Mayweather foe **Amir Khan** joined his brother, Haroon, in supporting a poetry project that will invite schoolchildren to write in their native languages. Khan, whose family comes from Pakistan, called it "a chance for us to celebrate multiculturism and for us to get to know one another even better." The program will be led by poet laureate **Carol Ann Duffy.**

The **WBC** expanded its own cultural reach by accepting **China** as its newest member. In a more insular move, about a week later the sanctioning body elected **Mauricio Sulaiman,** son of the late **Jose Sulaiman,** as its new president.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in late January from lawyers representing **MGM Studios** and **Paula Petrella,** daughter of **Frank Petrella**, who worked with **Jake LaMotta** to write a book and two screenplays that became the basis for the movie *Raging Bull*. (Fun fact: the movie and book of the same name credit Petrella under a pseudonym, Peter Savage.) Ms. Petrella claims her father's share of the screenplay copyright is hers and she should get paid. MGM says her share is expired, and she was just waiting for the film's 25th anniversary to try for more cash. The court will decide later this year whether to hear the case.

And, in what might be this column's strangest story since Pacquiao was accused of harboring a car thief named "Bong," imagine this: You are at the wake of a young boxer murdered by gunfire. But rather than joining a solemn procession of mourners filing past a casket, you instead enter a fake ring and pose next to a standing corpse dressed up in a satin hoodie and sunglasses while someone takes your picture with a cell phone. This reportedly was the dying wish of 23-year-old **Christopher Rivera,** a junior lightweight (5-15-1, 4 KOs) from Puerto Rico. Dressing up dead people for photos has been around since the Victorian era, but that was usually at the request of the living and probably never involved wearing boxing gloves. But Rivera had spoken, so his body was embalmed and fitted for combat, a single candle was placed in the center of the ring, and his family stood with him one last time. Creepy? Oh yes. But also sort of wonderful.

BRAIN STUDY BRINGS RIVALS TOGETHER

HOPKINS: BOXERS SHOULD 'KNOW WHAT [THEY] ARE GETTING INTO'

By **Gordon Marino**

A cease-fire in the cold war took place in the form of a press conference on Feb. 4 at the U.S. Capitol, when officers from Top Rank Inc. and Golden Boy Promotions (as well as competing MMA organizations) gathered together in support of the Cleveland Clinic's Professional Fighters Brain Health Study.

With approximately 400 combatants in its subject pool, each examined on a yearly basis, a team of researchers in Las Vegas is trying to detect when fighters are drifting into dangerous neurological territory.

Former boxers and political rivals, U.S. Senators John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Harry Reid (D-Nev.), both of whom have pushed for legislation to make boxing safer, vigorously championed this groundbreaking research in Washington.

"It's a rare occasion when Golden Boy Promotions and Top Rank Boxing are in the same room together, so I really congratulate you for that," McCain jabbed during his turn at the podium.

In a more somber tone, McCain reflected, "I am a great friend ... I dare to say, of Muhammad Ali, and I think all of us would agree that the condition of this great, great athlete and man is at least partially attributable to all the blows he sustained."

McCain pressed for everyone to get behind this scientific work, reasoning that we should do as much as possible to protect fighters who put their health on the line for our entertainment.

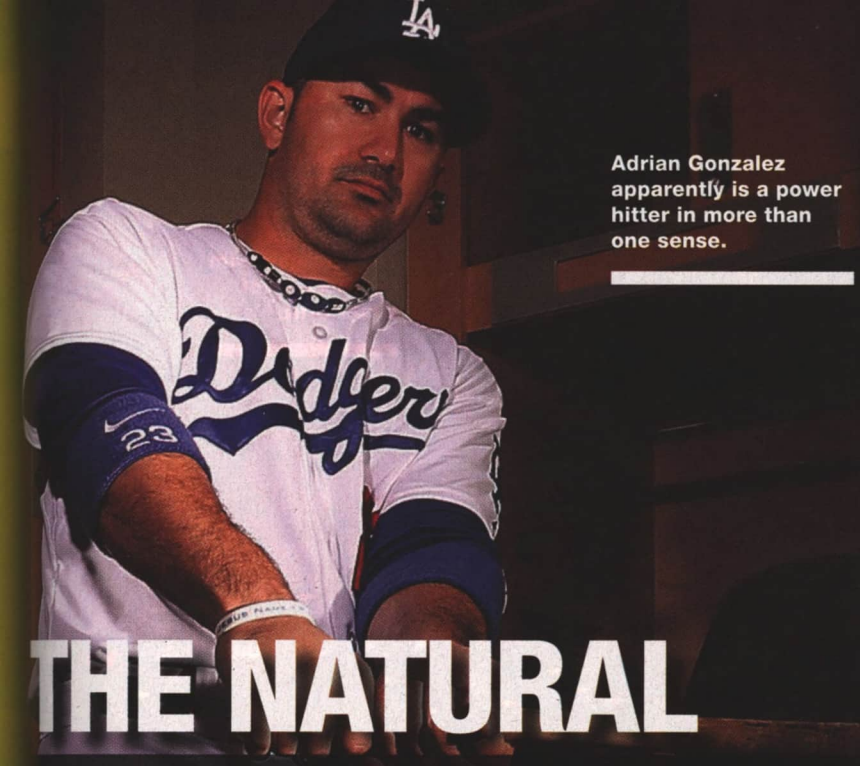
Reid struck a similar chord.

Mikey Garcia spoke at a press conference to promote the Cleveland Clinic's Professional Fighters Brain Health Study.

The senator, who judged hundreds of professional bouts in Nevada, recalled the time he scored one involving Sugar Ray Robinson and then sighed. "As we all know," he said, "this handsome man, who was one of the greatest fighters of all time, didn't know where he was when he died."

Star boxers Mikey Garcia and Bernard Hopkins also spoke in an effort to bring attention to the study. When pressed about the possibility that results might turn participants away from the sport, Hopkins argued that everyone should be able to make an informed choice.

Said Hopkins: "At least you will know what you are getting into and the possible repercussions."



Adrian Gonzalez apparently is a power hitter in more than one sense.

THE NATURAL

DODGERS FIRST BASEMAN **ADRIAN GONZALEZ** DABBLED IN BOXING TO IMPROVE HIS FITNESS AND HAS TAKEN TO THE SPORT

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Adrian Gonzalez began celebrating a big hit last season by slapping his hands together in an explosive gesture. There has always been power in his bat. Turns out, there's some pop in his hands, too.

Chris Byrd, a former heavyweight champ, noticed it while training Gonzalez during off-season workouts designed to get the four-time All-Star ready for Major League Baseball's 162-game grind.

Gonzalez said he met Byrd in church near their San Diego-area homes a couple years ago and asked Byrd to train him. Sessions with a speed bag were helpful for hand-eye coordination.

Gonzalez, who is listed at 225 pounds, also wanted to find new ways to strengthen his back and shoulders, and, as Byrd noted, throwing a punch is similar to swinging a bat and throwing a ball.

"Boxing's mechanics are lot like baseball," Byrd said. "We started with bag work. But I told him: 'I'm going to teach you like a fighter, I'm going to teach you how to think like a fighter.'

"I told him, 'Of course, you bat, you hit the ball, you throw the ball, and that motion is the same. But I'm going to give you the mentality of a fighter.' You know what? He took it upon himself to really learn that part of it. He picked it up so fast that literally, before he left for spring training, I could have got him a fight."

Byrd has been working with Gonzalez in a gym at the first-baseman's home in La Jolla, Calif., for the last two years. The twice-a-week training includes more than road work, the heavy bag and speed bag.

"Some sparring," said Gonzalez, who has become friends with Mexican junior middleweight Canelo Alvarez. "I'd spar with some of the younger fighters that Chris is training."

Byrd said Gonzalez sparred about 50 rounds before reporting in early February to the Dodgers 2014 spring camp in Glendale, Ariz.

"He's gone as many as eight rounds at once," said Byrd, a silver medalist at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Gonzalez bats left-handed. He boxes left-handed, too.

"I just want to make sure that the motion is identical," Gonzalez said

In his 11th year in the major leagues, Gonzalez also values the conditioning. Byrd calls him a workhorse. So does Dodgers manager Don Mattingly. In 2013, the Dodgers were plagued by injuries in a season that ended short of the World Series when Hanley Ramirez suffered a fractured rib in Game 1 of the National League Championship Series.

The St. Louis Cardinals went on to win the NLCS in six games. Throughout all of the injuries, Gonzalez was as reliable as ever, playing in a team-high 157 games and hitting a solid .293. From 2006 through 2013, while with the Padres, Red Sox and Dodgers, Gonzalez appeared in at least 156 games a season. In boxing terms, he goes the distance.

"He began to spar, because he wanted to know what it was to box," Byrd said. "He wants to know as much as he can, and he really works hard to get that knowledge. It's impressive. If things had been different, if he had started in boxing instead of baseball, he would have been as great a boxer as he is a baseball player." RING

Luis Collazo became a major player in the welterweight division again with his knockout of Victor Ortiz.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

LUIS COLLAZO

By **Michael Rosenthal**

No one who has followed Luis Collazo's career was shocked when he defeated Victor Ortiz on Jan. 30 in Brooklyn, N.Y, although a one-punch knockout came as a surprise.

Collazo (35-5, 18 knockouts) is a former WBA welterweight titleholder and gave Ricky

Hatton and Andre Berto hell in controversial losses. He's a very good fighter and always has been. The problem was that he took long breaks from the sport, the result of boxing politics and injuries. He fell off the radar.

Well, he's back on it now.

Collazo won three fights against marginal opponents in 2012 and 2013 to set up a showdown with Ortiz, one many thought the Puerto Rican-American would lose. However, while Ortiz attacked wildly, Collazo boxed with poise, patience and underappreciated skill for almost two full rounds.

Then came the unexpected, a perfect right hook that ended Ortiz's night 2:59 into the second round and instantly lifted Collazo back into the mix at 147 pounds.

That fact wasn't lost on Collazo, who collapsed in a heap of emotion in the ring moments after the fight ended. Indeed, he endured a long, frustrating road back to a meaningful place in boxing.

And, fortunately for him, he is a fresh 32 because he has fought sporadically and avoided taxing wars in recent years. In other words, as he demonstrated against Ortiz, he has a lot more fight left in him.

Now there is talk of a matchup between Collazo and rising young star Keith Thurman. And he is seen as a realistic candidate to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr., which would provide him with the payday about which all boxers dream.

It's good to have Collazo back in the discussion. He has earned it. RING

POUND FOR POUND: No change.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No. 1-rated Marco Huck knocked countryman Firat Arslan from No. 7 down to No. 8 with a sixth-round TKO in Germany.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Andre Dirrell (No. 9 last month) was removed for inactivity, thus elevating No. 10 Marco Antonio Periban to No. 9 and creating a space at the bottom for once-beaten Russian Maxim Vlasov.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Max Bursak (No. 8 last month) lost a unanimous decision to unrated Jarrod Fletcher on the undercard of Gennady Golovkin (No.1) vs. Osumanu Adama in Monte Carlo. Bursak was removed from the ratings, and undefeated Englishman Billy Joe Saunders entered at No. 10.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Texas twin Jermell Charlo (No. 10 last month) scored a 10-round unanimous decision over the game but paper-skinned Gabriel Rosado (unrated). Charlo jumped over Ishe Smith to No. 9.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Lamont Peterson (No. 5 last month) rose a notch to No. 4 after a solid unanimous decision over Dierry Jean, who held his position at No. 8.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Two-time welterweight Adrien Broner (No. 1 last month), who no longer fights at 135 pounds, was removed from the ratings after his WBC belt was transferred to Omar Figueroa (No. 10 last month). Everyone moved up a notch and former unified titleholder Juan Diaz became the new No. 10.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

FLYWEIGHTS: Amnat Ruenroeng (unrated last month) of Thailand won the IBF title and the No. 10 spot in the ratings with a unanimous decision over Rocky Fuentes (No. 10 last month) in Thailand.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No. 10-rated Nkosinathi Joyi was knocked out in three rounds by Rey Loreto (unrated). Joyi fell off the list, and Thai fighter Fahlan Sakkreerin arrived at No. 10.

STRAWWEIGHTS: China's sole titleholder, Xiong Zhao Zhong (No. 3 last month), lost his belt and fell to No. 10 after getting knocked out in five by Osvaldo Novoa (unrated). WBA titleholder Hekkie Budler (No. 2 last month) was shuffled into the top spot over Wanheng Menayothin and everyone from Denver Cuello (No. 4 last month) to Jesus Silvestre (No. 8 last month) rose a notch, with Novoa claiming the vacancy at No. 8.

No. 9 junior middleweight Jermell Charlo (left) passed an important test by dominating Gabriel Rosado on Jan. 25

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

- C **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** Ukraine | 61-3-0 (51 KOs)
- 1. **KUBRAT PULEV** Bulgaria | 19-0-0 (10 KOs)
- 2. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** Russia | 26-1-0 (18 KOs)
- 3. **TOMASZ ADAMEK** Poland | 49-2-0 (29 KOs)
- 4. **BERMANE STIVERNE** Canada | 23-1-1 (20 KOs)
- 5. **TYSON FURY** U.K. | 22-0-0 (16 KOs)
- 6. **ROBERT HELENIUS** Finland | 19-0-0 (11 KOs)
- 7. **CHRIS ARREOLA** U.S. | 36-3-0 (31 KOs)
- 8. **ODLANIER SOLIS** Cuba | 20-1-0 (13 KOs)
- 9. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV** Uzbekistan | 32-2-1 (20 KOs)
- 10. **DEONTAY WILDER** U.S. | 30-0-0 (30 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

- C **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ** Cuba | 28-1-0 (14 KOs)
- 1. **MARCO HUCK** Germany | 37-2-1 (26 KOs)
- 2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK** Poland | 49-2-1 (35 KOs)
- 3. **DENIS LEBEDEV** Russia | 25-2-0 (19 KOs)
- 4. **OLA AFOLABI** U.K. | 20-3-4 (9 KOs)
- 5. **GRIGORY DROZD** Russia | 37-1-0 (26 KOs)
- 6. **ILUNGA MAKABU** Congo | 16-1-0 (15 KOs)
- 7. **DMYTRO KUCHER** Ukraine | 21-1-0 (15 KOs)
- 8. **FIRAT ARSLAN** Germany | 33-7-2 (21 KOs)
- 9. **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK** Poland | 31-1-0 (23 KOs)
- 10. **THABISO MCHUNU** South Africa | 15-1-0 (10 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

- C **ADONIS STEVENSON** Canada | 23-1-0 (20 KOs)
- 1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** U.S. | 54-6-2 (32 KOs)
- 2. **SERGEY KOVALEV** Russia | 23-0-1 (21 KOs)
- 3. **JEAN PASCAL** Canada | 29-2-1 (17 KOs)
- 4. **BEIBUT SHUMENOV** Kazakhstan | 14-1-0 (9 KOs)
- 5. **JUERGEN BRAEHMER** Germany | 42-2-0 (31 KOs)
- 6. **CHAD DAWSON** U.S. | 31-3-0 (17 KOs)
- 7. **TAVORIS CLOUD** U.S. | 24-2-0 (19 KOs)
- 8. **NATHAN CLEVERLY** U.K. | 26-1-0 (12 KOs)
- 9. **TONY BELLEW** U.K. | 20-2-1 (12 KOs)
- 10. **ISAAC CHILEMBA** Malawi | 21-2-2 (9 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

- C **ANDRE WARD** U.S. | 27-0-0 (14 KOs)
- 1. **CARL FROCH** U.K. | 32-2-0 (23 KOs)
- 2. **MIKKEL KESSLER** Denmark | 46-3-0 (35 KOs)
- 3. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** Russia | 46-3-0 (26 KOs)
- 4. **GEORGE GROVES** U.K. | 19-1-0 (15 KOs)
- 5. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** Armenia | 38-4-0 (28 KOs)
- 6. **THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN** South Africa | 22-0-2 (13 KOs)
- 7. **SAKIO BIKA** Cameroon | 32-5-3 (21 KOs)
- 8. **JAMES DEGALE** U.K. | 17-1-0 (11 KOs)
- 9. **MARCO ANTONIO PERIBAN** Mexico | 20-1-1 (13 KOs)
- 10. **MAXIM VLASOV** Russia | 28-1-0 (14 KOs)

RATINGS

DDLEWEIGHTS
GHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

- **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
  Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs)
- **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
  Kazakhstan | 29-0-0 (26 KOs)
- **FELIX STURM**
  Germany | 39-3-2 (18 KOs)
- **DANIEL GEALE**
  Australia | 29-2-0 (15 KOs)
- **PETER QUILLIN**
  U.S. | 30-0-0 (22 KOs)
- **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
  U.K. | 30-5-0 (20 KOs)
- **MARTIN MURRAY**
  U.K. | 26-1-1 (11 KOs)
- **MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO**
  Mexico | 58-6-1 (50 KOs)
- **CURTIS STEVENS**
  U.S. | 26-4-0 (19 KOs)
- **HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM**
  Cameroon | 29-1-0 (18 KOs)
- **BILLY JOE SAUNDERS**
  U.K. | 19-0-0 (10 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

- C **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
  U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs)
- 1. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
  Mexico | 42-1-1 (30 KOs)
- 2. **ERISLANDY LARA**
  Cuba | 19-1-2 (12 KOs)
- 3. **MIGUEL COTTO**
  Puerto Rico | 38-4-0 (31 KOs)
- 4. **CARLOS MOLINA**
  Mexico | 22-5-2 (6 KOs)
- 5. **AUSTIN TROUT**
  U.S. | 26-2-0 (14 KOs)
- 6. **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE**
  U.S. | 20-0-0 (13 KOs)
- 7. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
  U.S. | 33-1-1 (21 KOs)
- 8. **WILLIE NELSON**
  U.S. | 21-1-1 (12 KOs)
- 9. **JERMELL CHARLO**
  U.S. | 23-0-0 (11 KOs)
- 10. **ISHE SMITH**
  U.S. | 25-6-0 (11 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

- C **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
  U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs)
- 1. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
  U.S. | 31-0-0 (12 KOs)
- 2. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
  Mexico | 55-7-1 (40 KOs)
- 3. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
  Philippines | 55-5-2 (38 KOs)
- 4. **KELL BROOK**
  U.K. | 31-0-0 (21 KOs)
- 5. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
  U.S. | 31-2-1 (18 KOs)
- 6. **SHAWN PORTER**
  U.S. | 23-0-1 (14 KOs)
- 7. **KEITH THURMAN**
  U.S. | 22-0-0 (20 KOs)
- 8. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI**
  U.S. | 33-5-0 (7 KOs)
- 9. **MARCOS MAIDANA**
  Argentina | 35-3-0 (31 KOs)
- 10. **ADRIEN BRONER**
  U.S. | 27-1-0 (22 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

- C **DANNY GARCIA**
  U.S. | 27-0-0 (16 KOs)
- 1. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
  Argentina | 34-3-0 (32 KOs)
- 2. **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV**
  Russia | 23-2-0 (16 KOs)
- 3. **AMIR KHAN**
  U.K. | 28-3-0 (19 KOs)
- 4. **LAMONT PETERSON**
  U.S. | 32-2-1 (16 KOs)
- 5. **MIKE ALVARADO**
  U.S. | 34-2-0 (23 KOs)
- 6. **ZAB JUDAH**
  U.S. | 42-9-0 (29 KOs)
- 7. **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV**
  Russia | 19-0-0 (9 KOs)
- 8. **DIERRY JEAN**
  Canada | 25-1-0 (17 KOs)
- 9. **VIKTOR POSTOL**
  Ukraine | 25-0-0 (10 KOs)
- 10. **SELCUK AYDIN**
  Turkey | 26-2-0 (19 KOs)

HTWEIGHTS
HT LIMIT: 135 LBS

- **VACANT**
- **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
  Mexico | 33-3-0 (13 KOs)
- **RICHAR ABRIL**
  Cuba | 18-3-1 (8 KOs)
- **RICKY BURNS**
  U.K. | 36-2-1 (11 KOs)
- **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN**
  Mexico | 28-6-1 (17 KOs)
- **SHARIF BOGERE**
  Uganda | 23-1-0 (15 KOs)
- **KEVIN MITCHELL**
  U.K. | 36-2-0 (26 KOs)
- **DANIEL ESTRADA**
  Mexico | 32-2-1 (24 KOs)
- **TERENCE CRAWFORD**
  U.S. | 22-0-0 (16 KOs)
- **OMAR FIGUEROA**
  U.S. | 22-0-1 (17 KOs)
- **JUAN DIAZ**
  U.S. | 38-4-0 (19 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

- C **VACANT**
- 1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
  Japan | 20-0-1 (17 KOs)
- 2. **MIKEY GARCIA**
  U.S. | 34-0-0 (28 KOs)
- 3. **RANCES BARTHELEMY**
  Cuba | 19-0-0 (12 KOs)
- 4. **TAKASHI MIURA**
  Japan | 27-2-2 (20 KOs)
- 5. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
  Mexico | 30-2-2 (20 KOs)
- 6. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
  Puerto Rico | 27-2-2 (16 KOs)
- 7. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
  Dominican Rep. | 21-2-1 (11 KOs)
- 8. **DIEGO MAGDALENO**
  U.S. | 25-1-0 (10 KOs)
- 9. **TAKAHIRO AO**
  Japan | 25-3-1 (12 KOs)
- 10. **WILL TOMLINSON**
  Australia | 21-0-1 (12 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

- C **VACANT**
- 1. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
  Mexico | 55-8-0 (47 KOs)
- 2. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
  Mexico | 40-12-2 (28 KOs)
- 3. **ABNER MARES**
  Mexico | 26-1-1 (14 KOs)
- 4. **EVGENY GRADOVICH**
  Russia | 18-0-0 (9 KOs)
- 5. **SIMPIWE VETYEKA**
  South Africa | 26-2-0 (16 KOs)
- 6. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
  Mexico | 45-5-0 (35 KOs)
- 7. **NICHOLAS WALTERS**
  Jamaica | 23-0-0 (19 KOs)
- 8. **BILLY DIB**
  Australia | 36-3-0 (21 KOs)
- 9. **JAVIER FORTUNA**
  Dominican Rep. | 23-0-1 (17 KOs)
- 10. **NONITO DONAIRE**
  Philippines | 32-2-0 (21 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

- C **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
  Cuba | 13-0-0 (8 KOs)
- 1. **CARL FRAMPTON**
  U.K. | 17-0-0 (12 KOs)
- 2. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
  U.S. | 26-0-1 (15 KOs)
- 3. **KIKO MARTINEZ**
  Spain | 30-4-0 (22 KOs)
- 4. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
  Armenia | 39-6-1 (28 KOs)
- 5. **VICTOR TERRAZAS**
  Mexico | 37-3-1 (21 KOs)
- 6. **SCOTT QUIGG**
  U.K. | 27-0-2 (20 KOs)
- 7. **CRISTIAN MIJARES**
  Mexico | 49-7-2 (24 KOs)
- 8. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
  South Africa | 27-5-2 (14 KOs)
- 9. **JHONATAN ROMERO**
  Colombia | 23-1-0 (12 KOs)
- 10. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
  Mexico | 50-4-2 (38 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

PATRICK SMITH

RING RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama | 34-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
Japan | 20-0-2 (15 KOs)
3. **KOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 32-1-0 (17 KOs)
4. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
Philippines | 33-3-3 (20 KOs)
5. **HUGO RUIZ**
Mexico | 33-2-0 (29 KOs)
6. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana | 29-5-0 (22 KOs)
7. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
U.K. | 23-2-1 (10 KOs)
8. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 29-0-0 (18 KOs)
9. **JULIO CEJA**
Mexico | 26-1-0 (24 KOs)
10. **PAULUS AMBUNDA**
Namibia | 20-1-0 (10 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina | 41-1-2 (22 KOs)
2. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
Mexico | 29-0-0 (24 KOs)
3. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
Thailand | 24-3-1 (22 KOs)
4. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
Thailand | 25-3-0 (15 KOs)
5. **ZOLANI TETE**
South Africa | 18-3-0 (16 KOs)
6. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
Mexico | 17-2-1 (9 KOs)
7. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
Philippines | 24-0-0 (14 KOs)
8. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
Thailand | 52-1-1 (18 KOs)
9. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
Mexico | 29-2-0 (24 KOs)
10. **DAIKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 29-4-0 (18 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
Japan | 19-3-0 (9 KOs)

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
Nicaragua | 38-0-0 (32 KOs)
2. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
Mexico | 25-2-0 (18 KOs)
3. **BRIAN VILORIA**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
4. **EDGAR SOSA**
Mexico | 49-8-0 (29 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
Argentina | 32-1-0 (17 KOs)
6. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
Japan | 18-2-1 (11 KOs)
7. **GIOVANI SEGURA**
Mexico | 31-3-1 (27 KOs)
8. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 36-4-0 (26 KOs)
9. **MILAN MELINDO**
Philippines | 30-1-0 (12 KOs)
10. **AMNAT RUENROENG**
Thailand | 12-0-0 (5 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **DONNIE NIETES**
Philippines | 32-1-4 (18 KOs)
2. **KAZUTO IOKA**
Japan | 14-0-0 (9 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
Mexico | 19-1-1 (10 KOs)
4. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
Mexico | 29-2-1 (18 KOs)
5. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
Philippines | 19-2-0 (11 KOs)
6. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
Mexico | 21-1-1 (14 KOs)
7. **FELIX ALVARADO**
Nicaragua | 18-1-0 (15 KOs)
8. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
Peru | 31-8-0 (13 KOs)
9. **NAOYA INOUE**
Japan | 5-0-0 (4 KOs)
10. **FAHLAN SAKKREERIN JR.**
Thailand | 23-2-0 (15 KOs)

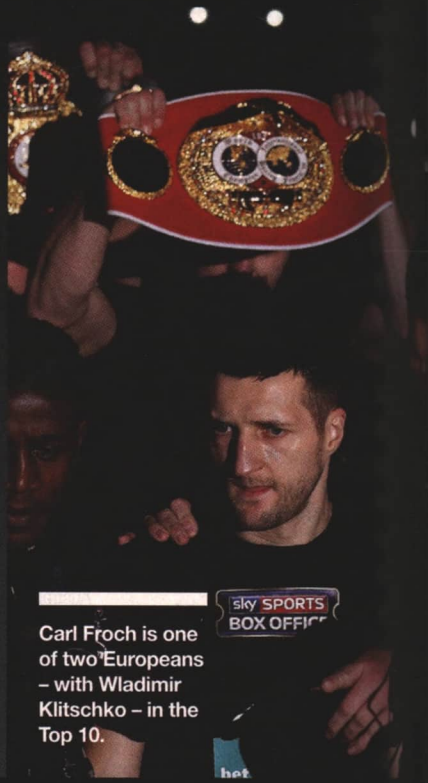
STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
South Africa | 24-1-0 (7 KOs)
2. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
Thailand | 32-0-0 (10 KOs)
3. **DENVER CUELLO**
Philippines | 33-5-6 (21 KOs)
4. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
Japan | 26-6-0 (10 KOs)
5. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
Nicaragua | 27-0-1 (16 KOs)
6. **MERLITO SABILLO**
Philippines | 23-0-1 (12 KOs)
7. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
Mexico | 28-4-0 (20 KOs)
8. **OSVALDO NOVOA**
Mexico | 13-4-1 (8 KOs)
9. **RYUJI HARA**
Japan | 16-0-0 (10 KOs)
10. **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG**
China | 22-5-1 (12 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 45-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT/ JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
2. **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 27-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
3. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 31-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
4. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 61-3-0 (51 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
5. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 51-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 55-7-1 (40 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
7. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 55-5-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
8. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 13-0-0 (8 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT
9. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 42-1-1 (30 KOs) | JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
10. **CARL FROCH**
U.K. | 32-2-0 (23 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT



Carl Froch is one of two Europeans – with Wladimir Klitschko – in the Top 10.

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

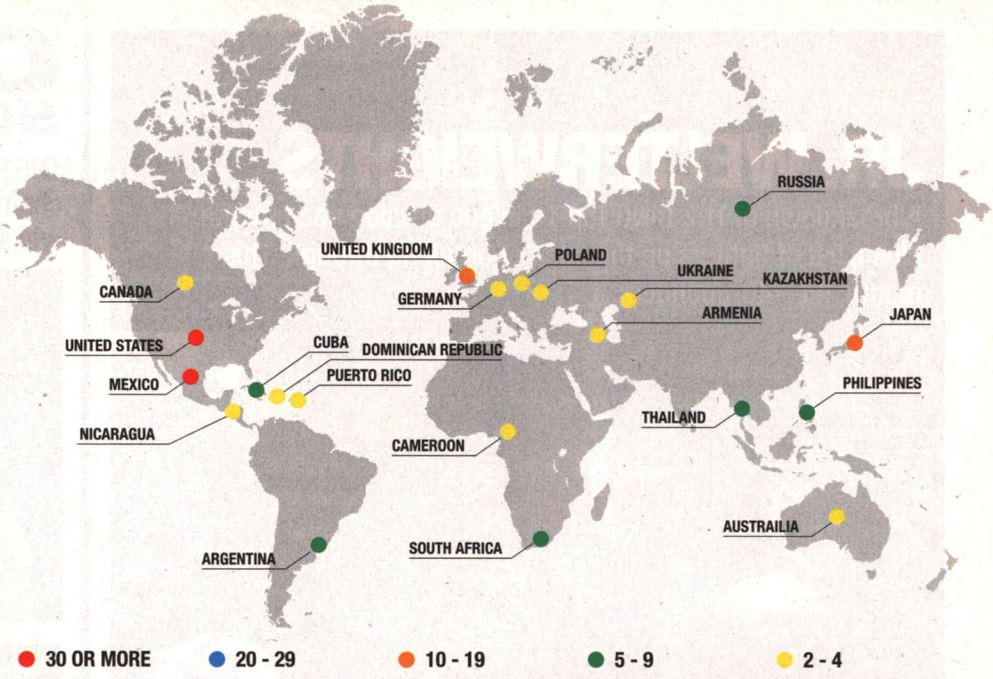
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	33 *	↓ 1
MEXICO	30	
UNITED KINGDOM	17	↓ 1
JAPAN	13	
PHILIPPINES	9	↑ 1
RUSSIA	9	↑ 1
CUBA	6	
SOUTH AFRICA	6	↓ 1
THAILAND	6	↑ 2
ARGENTINA	5	
CANADA	4	
GERMANY	4	
AUSTRALIA	3	
NICARAGUA	3	
POLAND	3	
UKRAINE	3	↓ 1
ARMENIA	2	
CAMEROON	2	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2	
KAZAKHSTAN	2	
PUERTO RICO	2	
BULGARIA	1	
CHINA	1	
COLOMBIA	1	
CONGO	1	
DENMARK	1	
FINLAND	1	
GHANA	1	
JAMAICA	1	
MALAWI	1	
NAMIBIA	1	
PANAMA	1	
PERU	1	
SPAIN	1	
TURKEY	1	
UGANDA	1	
UZBEKISTAN	1	

** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight).*



ENGLISH VS. SPANISH

We're talking languages, not countries, here. Seventy-three percent of fighters rated by THE RING – 131 of 180 – come from countries with English or Spanish as an official language. English has a 79-52 edge over Spanish. Japanese is next with 13. Here's how it breaks down by division.

DIVISION	ENGLISH	SPANISH
HEAVYWEIGHTS	4	1
CRUISERWEIGHTS	2	1
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	8	0
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	6	1
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	7	2
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	7	4
WELTERWEIGHTS	9	2
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	6	1
LIGHTWEIGHTS	6	4
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	3	4
FEATHERWEIGHTS	4	5
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	4	6
BANTAMWEIGHTS	4	3
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	2	4
FLYWEIGHTS	2	6
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	2	5
STRAWWEIGHTS	3	3
TOTAL	79	52

Orlando Salido

MOST LOSSES

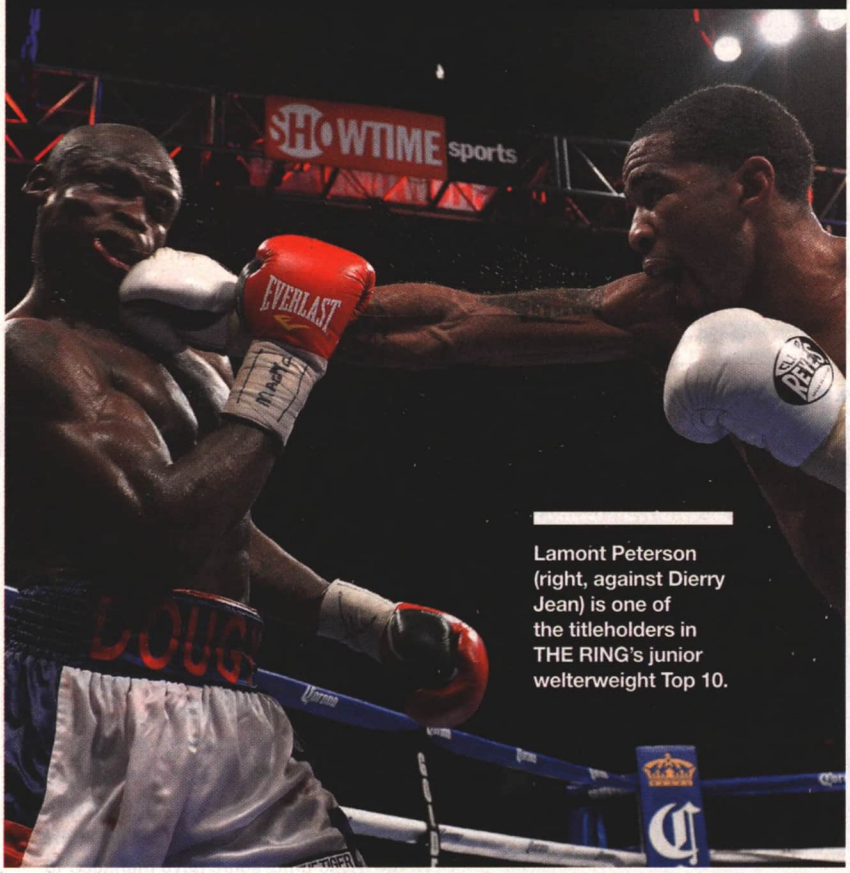
None of the fighters rated by the THE RING lose consistently or they wouldn't be here. At the same time, some have managed to remain elite fighters in spite of numerous setbacks. Here are the RING-rated fighters with the most losses.

12 ORLANDO SALIDO (FEATHERWEIGHT)
9 ZAB JUDAH (JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT)
8 JHONNY GONZALEZ (FEATHERWEIGHT)
8 ALBERTO ROSSEL (JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT)
8 EDGAR SOSA (FLYWEIGHT)
7 FIRAT ARSLAN (CRUISERWEIGHT)
7 JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ (WELTERWEIGHT)
7 CRISTIAN MIJARES (JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT)
6 RAYMUNDO BELTRAN (LIGHTWEIGHT)
6 VIC DARCHINYAN (JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT)
6 BERNARD HOPKINS (LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT)
6 MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO (MIDDLEWEIGHT)
6 ISHE SMITH (JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT)
6 KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA (STRAWWEIGHT)

FOCUS ON . . .

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 140-pounders.



Lamont Peterson (right, against Dierry Jean) is one of the titleholders in THE RING's junior welterweight Top 10.

MOST WEEKS RATED: AMIR KHAN **238**

FEWEST WEEKS RATED: SELCUK AYDIN **8**

OLDEST: ZAB JUDAH **36**

YOUNGEST: AMIR KHAN **27**

MOST FIGHTS: JUDAH **51**

FEWEST FIGHTS: KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV **19**

HIGHEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: (TIE) DANNY GARCIA, ALLAKHVERDIEV, AND VIKTOR POSTOL **100 PERCENT**

LOWEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: JUDAH **82.4 PERCENT**

MOST KOS: LUCAS MATTHYSSE **32**

FEWEST KOS: ALLAKHVERDIEV **9**

LONGEST CURRENT WINNING STREAK: GARCIA **27 FIGHTS**

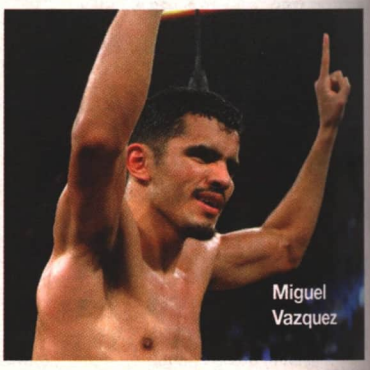
ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST: NONE

TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10: GARCIA (RING, WBC, WBA), RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV (WBO), AND LAMONT PETERSON (IBF)

ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): CESAR CUENCA, HENRY LUNDY, KARIM MAYFIELD, HUMBERTO SOTO, AND JESSIE VARGAS

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.



Miguel Vazquez

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIKEY GARCIA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

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LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
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BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

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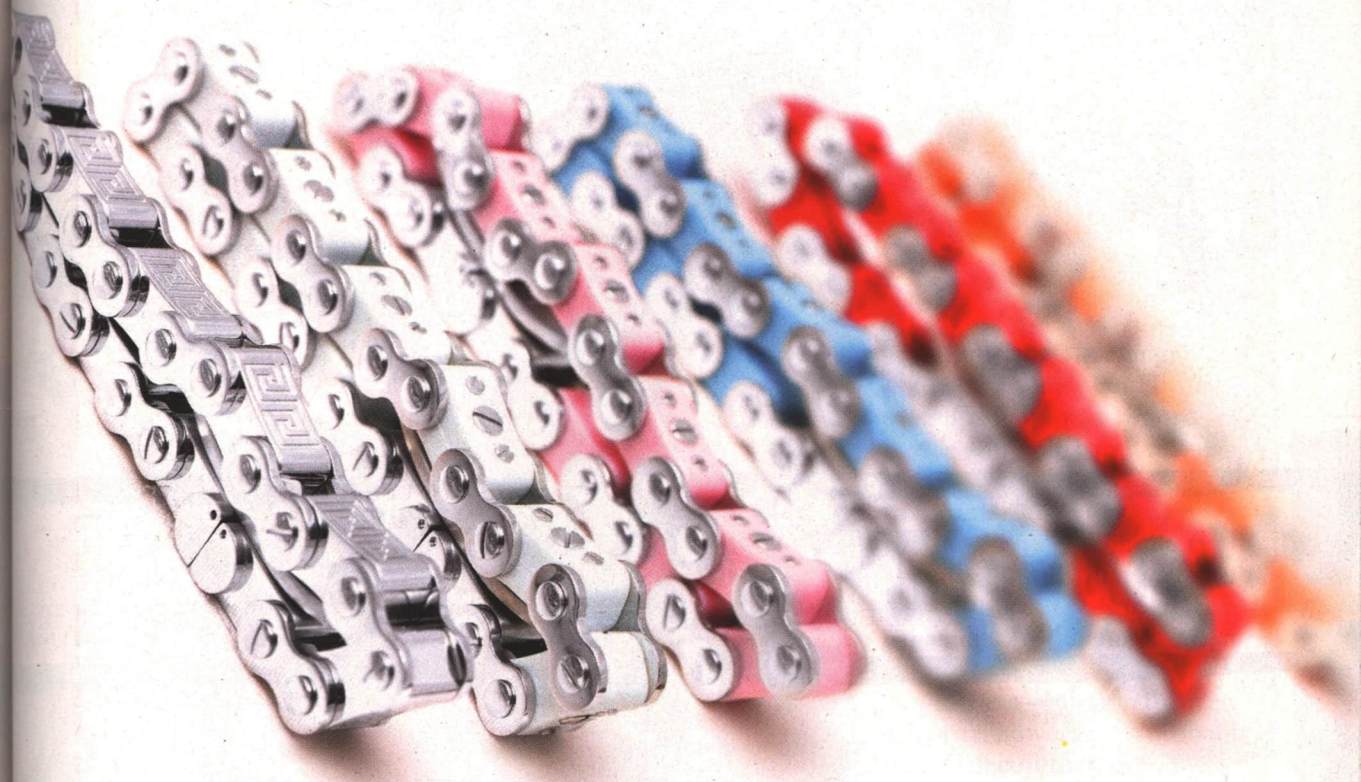

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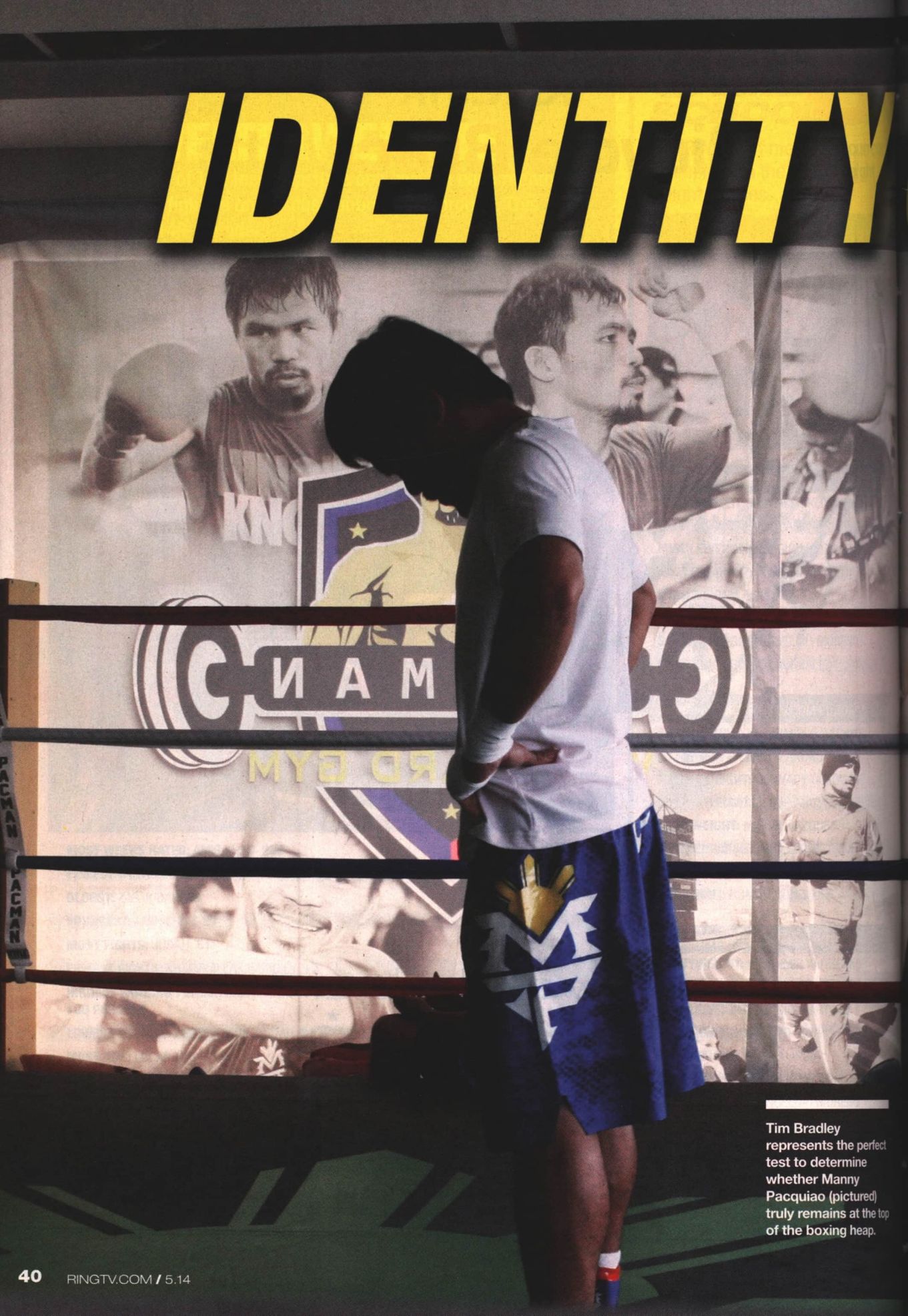


Tim Bradley represents the perfect test to determine whether Manny Pacquiao (pictured) truly remains at the top of the boxing heap.

CRISIS

NO ONE IS QUITE SURE WHICH **MANNY PACQUIAO** WILL ANSWER THE OPENING BELL ON APRIL 12

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Manny Pacquiao might not be anybody's pound-for-pound champion anymore, but he still holds a mythical title with a precarious power that can alter an identity as surely as a big punch can rearrange a face. Being a People's Champ isn't easy. From Jack Johnson to Muhammad Ali, it never has been.

In this era of Internet-driven celebrity, however, it's probably more difficult than ever. By definition, a People's Champ has always been public property. But email, Twitter and blog posts are the digital megaphones that have given all of the champ's people an unprecedented say-so about what the title is and who the champ should be.

Their definitions for the job rival the many roles Pacquiao has played in his varied life as a Filipino congressman, soldier, populist, philanthropist, puncher, peacemaker, preacher, gambler, singer, basketball player, actor, businessman, butcher, baker and candlestick maker. If boxing has ever had a Renaissance Man, he's it. He's done a whole lot, and his unflagging energy says he wants

to do even more. Even President of the Philippines has been mentioned. In part, it's what makes him so likable. There's an everyman kind of appeal in Pacquiao, perhaps because he's done it all.

But danger lurks in his willingness to be everything to everybody. Pacquiao has become a lot of things. But is he the fighter we remember? Just who the heck is he anymore? It's a question, a potential identity crisis, which many believe he'll have to answer in a significant rematch with Tim Bradley on April 12 at Las Vegas' MGM Grand.

The best of Pacquiao was there, in bold and dramatic strokes, on canvas framed by ropes. He made Oscar De La Hoya quit. With one punch, he lifted Ricky Hatton higher than the Brit could jump in a frightening knockout. But the danger was there, too. It's where Pacquiao fell face-first onto the same MGM Grand canvas, unconscious and defeated by a right hand from Juan Manuel Marquez on Dec. 5, 2012.

Since then, Pacquiao has won a one-sided decision in China over Brandon Rios, but there was nothing unanimous about whether he had rediscovered instincts that overwhelmed De La Hoya, Hatton, Miguel Cotto and Shane Mosley. Rios was a test run, both for him and fans. Lukewarm pay-per-view numbers – reported to be between 475,000 and 500,000 – are reason to wonder whether a lot of people have begun to look for another champ. It was a good number for anybody but Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr., who are expected to do a million and more.

Against Bradley, the personal stakes are big. There's plenty

Bradley (right) believes compassion prevented Pacquiao from stopping Brandon Rios, an issue others have suggested is to blame for Pacquiao's recent lack of KOs.

of motivation. Bradley's split-decision victory in June 2012 ranks as boxing's most controversial during the Twitter Era. Other than judges C.J. Ross and Duane Ford, there were few at the MGM or in the world-wide audience who thought Bradley won. But that was before Marquez's right hand landed. And before Bradley scored a true-grit victory over Ruslan Provodnikov and followed up with a patient, poised split decision over Marquez. A lot has changed, especially in the way misplaced outrage at Bradley has been transformed into some genuine appreciation. But what about Pacquiao? Even among those closest to him, there's a guessing game about who will answer the opening bell.

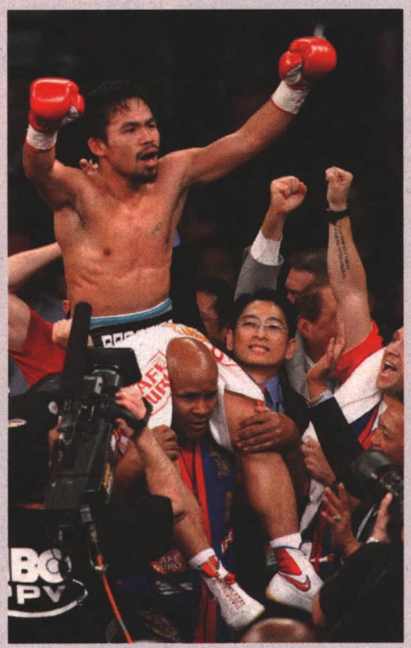
Among the many sides to Pacquiao, there's the compassionate Manny. He's the personality that Bradley says he saw against Rios. Bradley's theory is that Pacquiao's compassion prevented him from scoring a stoppage. It's a theory that began to gain traction when Pacquiao became a born-again Christian. Whatever the reason, he hasn't scored a knockout in seven straight fights, or since a 12th-round TKO of Cotto in November 2009. Against Bradley's versatile skill set, Pacquiao's compassion might as well be a glass jaw. If it's there, Bradley will capitalize, scoring with fearless aggression.

Then, there's the resurrected Manny. That's the one trainer Freddie Roach foresees. Roach believes Pacquiao will re-ignite his go-for-broke style with a stoppage that will restore the pay-per-view audience.

"It's been more than four years now since we had a knockout," Roach said. "I told Manny that's why your paydays are getting

PEAKS AND VALLEYS

A ranking of Manny Pacquiao's years in boxing since 2001, the year he beat favored Lehlo Ledwaba in Las Vegas to burst onto the international scene. The ranking is based on the importance of what he accomplished each year.



1. 2009

Record: 2-0 (2 KOs) ★ **Opponents:** Ricky Hatton (KO 2) and Miguel Cotto (KO 12). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao hit his fistic peak the moment a left hook removed Hatton from his senses in their fight in Las Vegas. He also dominated Cotto.

2. 2008

Record: 3-0 (2 KOs) ★ **Opponents:** Juan Manuel Marquez (SD), David Diaz (TKO 9) and Oscar De La Hoya (TKO 8). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao crossed into superstardom when he pummeled a faded De La Hoya in Las Vegas. The victory over Marquez was typically controversial.

3. 2006

Record: 3-0 (2 KOs) ★ **Opponents:** Erik Morales (TKO 10), Oscar Larios (UD) and Morales (KO 3). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao rebounded from a loss to Morales in their first fight to stop him in the rematch and make him quit in the rubber match.

4. 2003

Record: 3-0 (3 KOs) ★ **Opponents:** Serikzhan Yeshmagambetov (TKO 5), Emmanuel Lucero (TKO 3) and Marco Antonio Barrera (TKO 11). ★ **Summary:** Barrera had won eight consecutive fights when he went down twice and proved no match for a hungry, fast-rising Pacquiao.

5. 2001

Record: 3-0-1 (3 KOs) ★ **Opponents:** Tetsutora Senrima (TKO 5), Wethya Sakmuangklang (KO 6), Lehlo Ledwaba (TKO 6) and Agapito Sanchez (TD 6). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao first served notice that he had special ability when he dominated Ledwaba, who many considered a rising star.

6. 2010

Record: 2-0 (0 KOS) ★ **Opponents:** Joshua Clottey (UD) and Antonio Margarito (UD). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao lost only five of 72 rounds scored – 36 in each fight – to the solid Clottey and giant Margarito.

7. 2011

Record: 2-0 (0 KOs) ★ **Opponents:** Shane Mosley (UD) and Juan Manuel Marquez (MD). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao nearly shut out a fading Mosley before beating Marquez by another disputed decision.

8. 2013

Record: 1-0 (0 KOs) ★ **Opponent:** Brandon Rios (UD). ★ **Summary:** The fact Pacquiao was able to bounce back from back-to-back losses the previous year proved he remains an elite fighter.

9. 2007

Record: 2-0 (1 KO) ★ **Opponents:** Jorge Solis (KO 8) and Barrera (UD). ★ **Summary:** Solis was undefeated and considered very tough when Pacquiao stopped him. Barrera was still capable but in decline.

10. 2002

Record: 2-0 (2 KOs) ★ **Opponents:** Jorge Julio (TKO 2) and Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym (TKO 1). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao overwhelmed Julio, a former two-time titleholder who would fight only once more afterward, and Rakkiatgym.

11. 2004

Record: 1-0-1 (1 KO) ★ **Opponents:** Marquez (D) and Fahsan 3K Battery (TKO 4). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao put Marquez down three times in the first round but lost the remainder of the fight and had to settle for a draw.

12. 2005

Record: 1-1 (1 KO) ★ **Opponents:** Morales (UD L) and Hector Velazquez (TKO 6). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao's close loss was the only setback during his remarkable run between 2001 and 2011 that established him as a superstar.

13. 2012

Record: 0-2 (0 KOs) ★ **Opponents:** Tim Bradley (SD L) and Marquez (KO 6 L). ★ **Summary:** Pacquiao seemed to beat Bradley but lost a disputed decision. Marquez left no doubt in their fourth fight, ending matters with one punch.

lower, and that's why the pay-per-view audience isn't as good. You tell me that you want to give the people what they want to see, and the people want to see knockouts."

A resurrected Manny means a Pacquiao with a killer instinct. That's the version Pacquiao repeatedly promised at stops in Los Angeles and New York during a press tour for the Bradley rematch.

"I can still bring that aggressiveness and killer instinct, and I can prove to the people and to the fans that I can still fight," said Pacquiao, who during a string of successive victories over Mexico's best was called The Mexicutioner yet rejected the nickname because he wasn't comfortable with the killing attached to it. "I'm not done yet. My career in boxing is not done yet."

He's not done because of still another version of Pacquiao: the broke Manny. There is anecdotal evidence that he needs money. His generosity and lavish lifestyle have never been a secret. Then there were reports in the fall that he owed $50 million to Filipino tax authorities and another $18.3 million to the Internal Revenue Service. There has been some dispute about the figures. Whatever they are, Pacquiao, displaying his compassionate side, said he had to borrow money to help fellow Filipinos caught in Typhoon Haiyan's destructive path, which hit Tacloban on Nov. 8. Filipino authorities had frozen his accounts, he said.

Then, there's the miscast Manny. His promoter, Bob Arum, says Pacquiao is not the knockout artist that fans and Roach believe him to be. Never has been, Arum says. That role was shoved onto him because of his second-round stoppage in 2009 of Hatton, who was overrated in almost every way other than his toughness and box-office appeal in the U.K.

"Truth is, Manny was never that guy," Arum said. "He was the kind of guy – and is still that kind of guy – who is very elusive and comes at you from all angles. His southpaw style scores. He is so quick that when you try to counter, he disappears. That's who he is. That's who you saw against Rios."

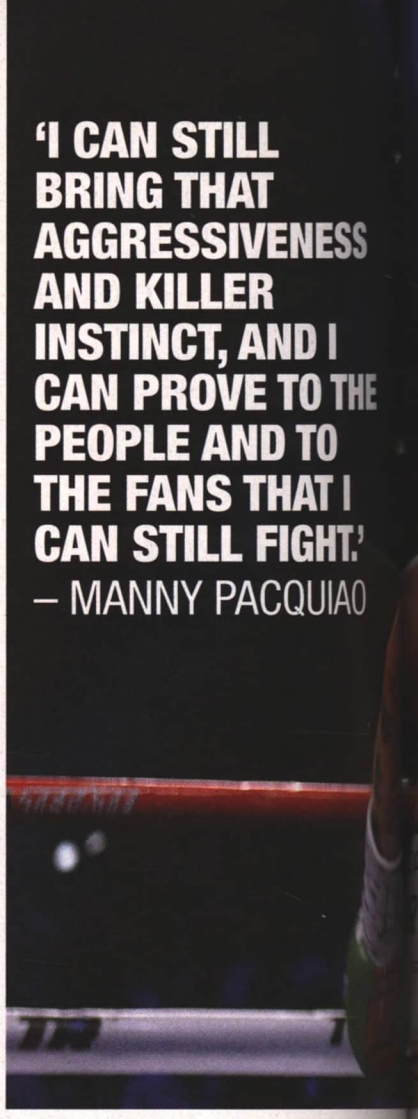
It's a version of Pacquiao that simply overwhelmed De La Hoya with a volume of punches from every conceivable angle and all at an exhausting pace. A combination of speed and energy simply wore down a faded opponent, forcing him to quit after eight rounds in a 2008 fight. Rios didn't quit. Then again, Rios never has.

But Arum's version is a younger Pacquiao. When he beat De La Hoya, he was 11 days from turning 30. He was in his prime, at a physical peak that would prevail, yet suffer in a bruising decision over a bigger Antonio Margarito at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, in November 2010. At the opening bell, Margarito weighed 165 pounds, 17 more than the 148-pound Pacquiao.

Through 12 rounds, most of the fight's focus was on the ugly condition of Margarito's right eye, which sustained a fracture to the orbital bone. A series of body blows, absorbed by Pacquiao in the mid-rounds, was lost in the carnage. There's a theory that those punches took something from him.

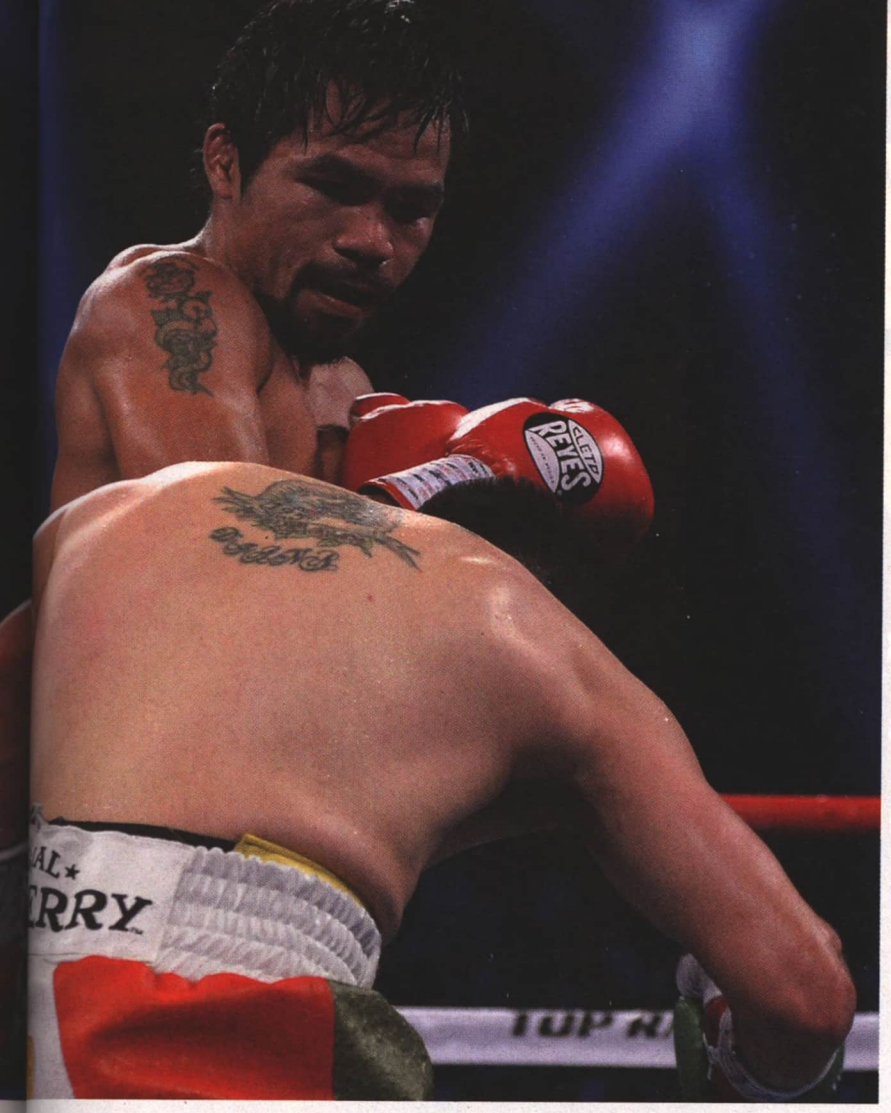
Perhaps those punches knocked Pacquiao off his physical peak. Maybe they made him tentative or robbed him of some energy. It was also a period in Pacquiao's career when his legs began to cramp. Softball-sized calves have been a source of Pacquiao's power and speed. They carried him. Sustained him. Yet they had begun to fail him.

'I CAN STILL BRING THAT AGGRESSIVENESS AND KILLER INSTINCT, AND I CAN PROVE TO THE PEOPLE AND TO THE FANS THAT I CAN STILL FIGHT.'
– MANNY PACQUIAO



There's been no news of further cramping. But there have been no dynamic bursts of speed, either. That speed swamped Erik Morales in two rematches and forced De La Hoya into retirement. Pacquiao has been good, but – at times – measured, if not pedestrian.

If his legs would have possessed the same jackrabbit spring he had against De La Hoya, would Marquez have been able to catch him with that right hand in the sixth round of their fourth fight, Pacquiao's fateful, last visit to the MGM Grand? If Arum's version of Pacquiao applies, would he have been there, hands



Might we see a more calculating and less instinctive Pacquiao on April 12?

down and chin exposed? Would Arum's version of Pacquiao, the quicksilver model of yesteryear, have lingered in the target zone?

In the end, we might see none of the aforementioned versions on the night of April 12. Time has the final say. It takes a toll for which there is no counter.

"Age changes us all," Arum said. "None of us are the same as we were when we were a little younger. That's the case for everybody."

That indiscriminate clock might dictate a Pacquiao yet unseen. A re-invented Manny. That's a version which might be a little bit more calculating and a little less instinctive. It might be more of the Pacquiao we saw against Rios than the one we remember against De La Hoya. That Pacquiao might not win over pay-per-view customers, but it could save him for a big-money showdown against Floyd Mayweather Jr. at the end of Mayweather's Showtime contract in September 2015. Re-invention is a hedge against aging. It's not new. But not everybody can pull it off, either.

At his best, Pacquiao, an eight-division titleholder, was compared to Henry Armstrong, who in 1938 held three titles at three weights – feather, light and welter – all at one time and during an era when there were only eight divisions. Armstrong, like Pacquiao, was known for a whirlwind, inexhaustible style with punching angles that defied common geometry.

Armstrong (150-21-10, 101 KOs) fought for 15 years, nearly five fewer than Pacquiao, whose career began almost two decades ago as a 105-pound 15-year-old on the impoverished streets of General Santos City. Armstrong lost his welterweight title in 1940 to Fritzie Zivic, best known for dirty tactics. He lost again to Zivic in a 1941 rematch. He beat Zivic in 1942 in a third fight. By then, however, Zivic no longer held a title. Armstrong's last shot at major title came in the 1941 loss, by 12th-round TKO.

Armstrong fought 29 more times, including a loss to an emerging legend, Sugar Ray Robinson. But he couldn't quite sustain the pace he had displayed in such dazzling fashion during the late 1930s. Translation: He couldn't re-invent himself.

Armstrong retired after a career-ending loss in February 1945. He was said to be 32, although there have been questions about the accuracy of his birth certificate. According to *The Ring Record Book and Boxing Encyclopedia*, Armstrong was born on Dec. 12, 1912, in Columbus, Miss. But the Mississippi census lists his birth date as Dec. 9, 1909.

If the second birth date is accurate, Armstrong would have retired at 34, nearly the same age as Pacquiao, who turned 35 on Dec. 17.

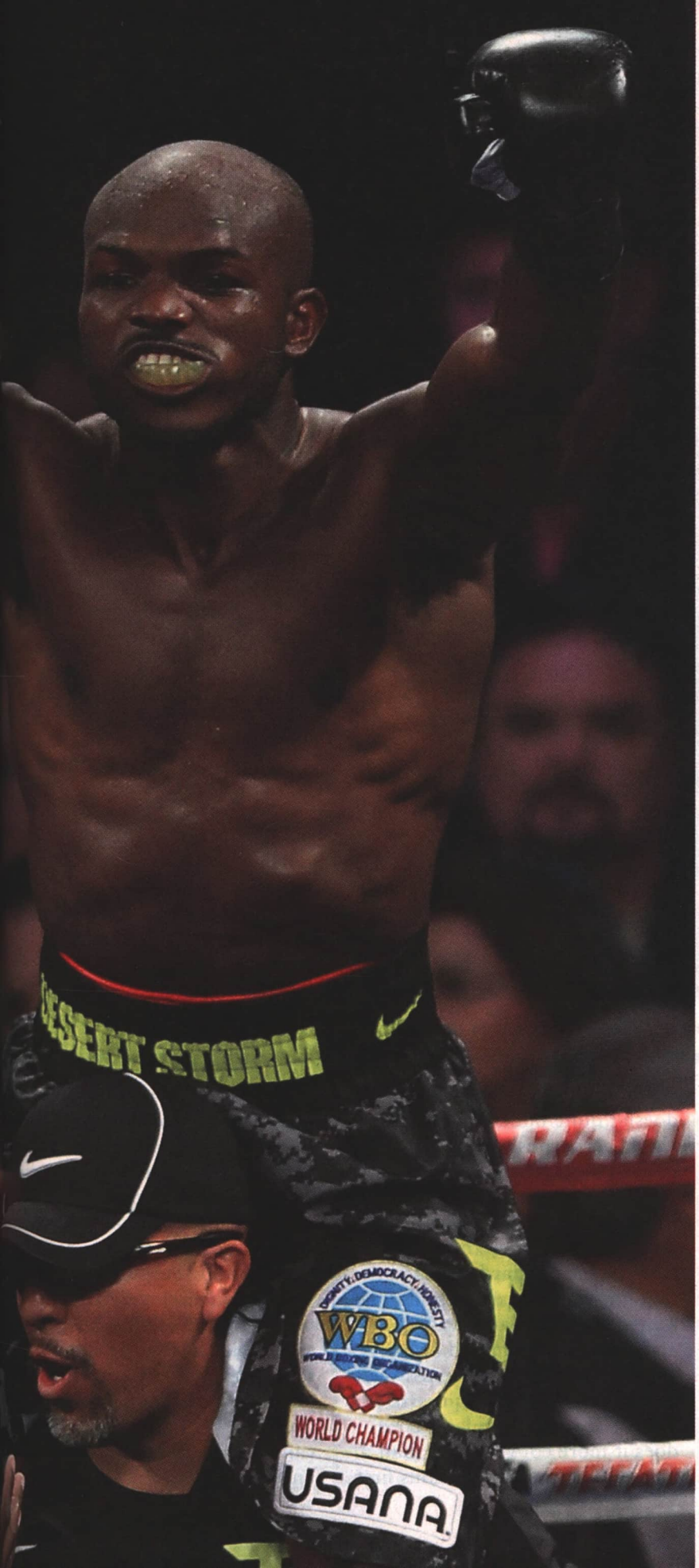
If Armstrong is the historical version of Pacquiao, it's an ominous one, yet also further motivation for a People's Champ to invent still another identity that won't allow the past to repeat itself.

FUTILE ENDEAVOR?

TIM BRADLEY HAS ACCOMPLISHED MORE IN BOXING THAN ALL BUT A FEW FIGHTERS YET STRUGGLES TO CONNECT WITH FANS

By **Keith Idec**

Tim Bradley has done nothing but win.



Timothy Bradley displayed such inspiring will and superior skill in his two wins over the past year that the unbeaten WBO welterweight titleholder should be one of boxing's biggest stars.

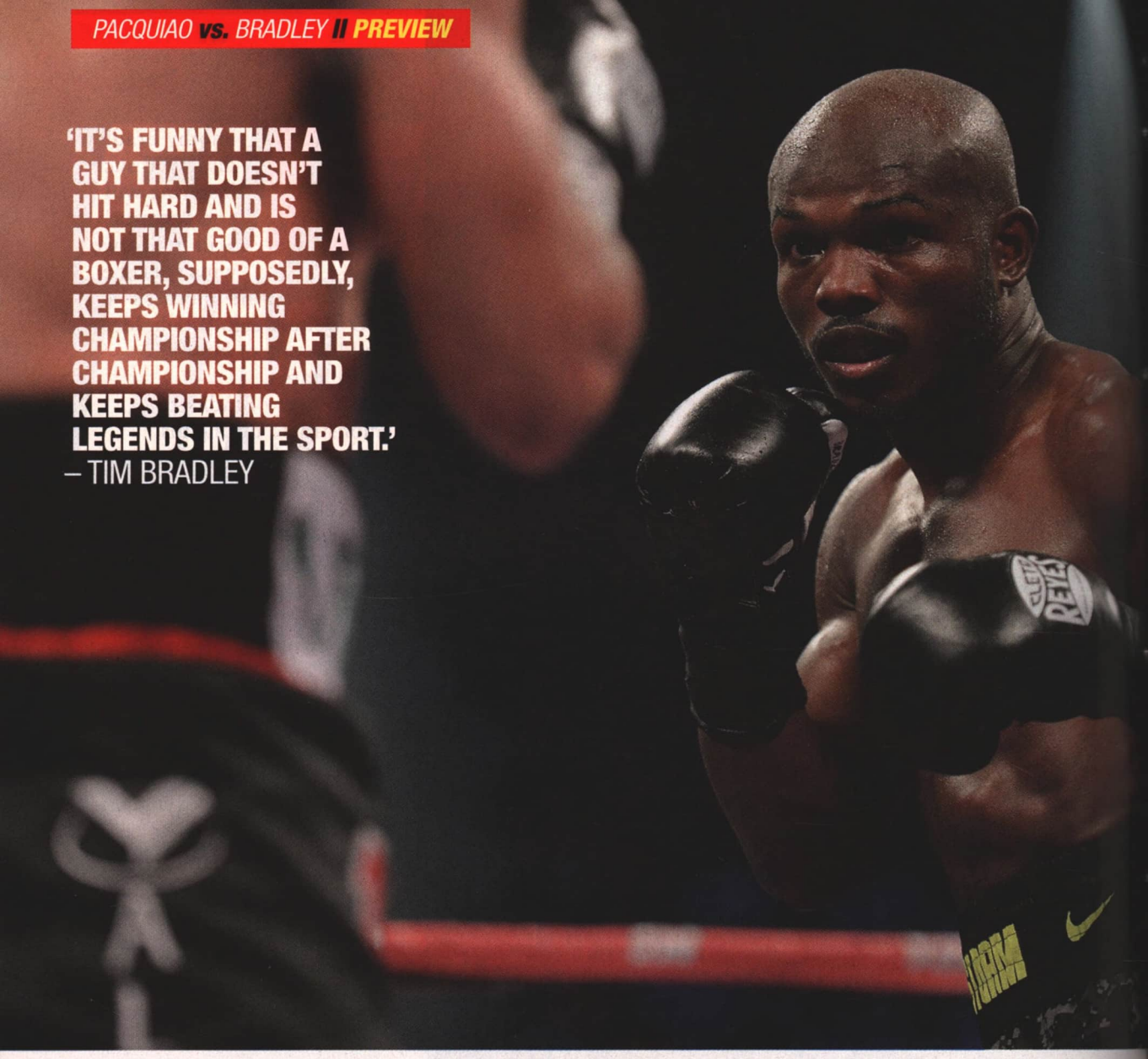
The bravery Bradley demonstrated during his unanimous-decision victory over rugged Ruslan Provodnikov in March helped make their 12-round brawl one of the classic clashes of the 21st century. Bradley survived serious trouble in four separate rounds, including a knockdown late in the 12th, to win THE RING's Fight of the Year and please slugfest-loving fans.

Then a less reckless Bradley boxed beautifully on his way to a decisive victory over Juan Manuel Marquez in their 12-round pay-per-view fight in October. Marquez was 40 but had knocked Manny Pacquiao unconscious in his previous fight and many experts expected him to beat Bradley, who suffered a severe concussion against Provodnikov.

As if those two wins weren't enough evidence to build Bradley into one of boxing's few transcendent stars, the native of Palm Springs, Calif., also embodies everything those who care about boxing should want in someone representing their sport. Charitable and humble, Bradley is a committed family man who helps his wife, Monica, raise their four children far away from the trappings of fame and wealth.

You're much more likely to find him counseling kids at a YMCA than partying on TMZ, but Bradley (31-0, 12 KOs) still should do bigger

'IT'S FUNNY THAT A GUY THAT DOESN'T HIT HARD AND IS NOT THAT GOOD OF A BOXER, SUPPOSEDLY, KEEPS WINNING CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER CHAMPIONSHIP AND KEEPS BEATING LEGENDS IN THE SPORT.'
– TIM BRADLEY



Bradley can't figure out why his success in the ring hasn't resonated with fans.

business in boxing. Bradley isn't considered a powerful puncher, but pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr. isn't a knockout artist, either, yet has become a superstar who commands a minimum of $30 million per fight.

The 30-year-old Bradley, who's guaranteed a career-high $6 million purse for his April 12 rematch against Manny Pacquiao, doesn't suggest he should make Mayweather money. He just doesn't quite understand why all his accomplishments haven't resonated with fans.

"A lot of guys say that I don't hit hard or whatever," Bradley said. "But it's funny that a guy that doesn't hit hard and is not that good of a boxer, supposedly, keeps winning championship after championship and keeps beating legends in the sport."

If Bradley beats Pacquiao (55-5-2, 38 KOs), particularly if he does it more convincingly than he did during their infamous first fight, his promoter, Bob Arum, believes Bradley finally will become boxing royalty. Despite his impressive, diverse victories over Provodnikov and Marquez, Bradley remains the B-side in pay-per-view events.

"I think beating Pacquiao makes him an A-side," Arum said. "That's what he's fighting for. This is going to be a high-profile pay-per-view. It's going to do really big numbers. If Bradley can win this fight, he becomes an A-side. Maybe he doesn't

draw like a Pacquiao did or a Mayweather does as an A-side, but he'll still be a strong A-side who can get 700,000 or 800,000 buys if he fights [a notable opponent]. That's a big thing, to be an A-side like that."

Bradley-Marquez drew about 375,000 buys on HBO Pay Per View, a respectable number considering neither Bradley nor Marquez were ever A-side fighters. The first fight between Pacquiao and Bradley, in June 2012, generated roughly 1.2 million pay-per-view buys, but Bradley didn't enjoy his "win" because the vast majority of fans and media believe Bradley lost, even though he officially won by split decision.

Bradley's trainer, Joel Diaz, isn't as optimistic as Arum that Bradley will be fully embraced even if he beats Pacquiao thoroughly in their rematch.

"I don't think beating Pacquiao will get him that stardom, that position that he deserves," Diaz said. "I don't think that will happen because the boxing fans and the boxing critics are really rough. They've been really rough on Tim. He has gotten to the position he is in right now by fighting extremely hard.

"Unfortunately, this kid has been doing everything the right way, and he doesn't get the credit he deserves. ... Why? Because a lot of the critics don't think he's an exciting fighter. If he beats Manny Pacquiao, they'll say, 'Oh, well, he fought a finished Manny. He got knocked out by Marquez. He's no longer the same.' So the poor guy will never get the credit he deserves.

"We just keep working, we just keep fighting, and we just keep winning."

Beating Pacquiao in such controversial fashion actually hurt Bradley's brand and could partially explain why the likeable boxer hasn't attained the superstar status his resume suggests he has earned. The two-division champion refers to his dubious victory over Pacquiao as "The Black Cloud," a burden he is sure would've hovered over him forever if he hadn't secured an opportunity to right that wrong on April 12.

No matter how many memorable wins he produces, how many millions he makes and how high he climbs on pound-for-pound lists, Bradley won't be able to feel good about officially defeating Pacquiao in their first fight unless he eliminates doubts about his superiority in their rematch. Marquez, despite losing to Bradley, could've denied him the shot at redemption, but decided against opposing the 35-year-old Pacquiao again himself, thus affording Bradley his chance.

"I'm very happy that Pacquiao and I finally came to terms to fight each other," said Bradley, who's ranked No. 3 on THE RING's pound-for-pound list, three spots ahead of Marquez and four in front of Pacquiao. "I've already got a win over Manny Pacquiao and I got no credit for it. This fight is basically to beat him a second time for the public's sake. I can't go on and continue my career without fighting Pacquiao once again."

The public punished Bradley after the Pacquiao fight for the skewed scorecards submitted by judges Duane Ford and C.J. Ross, both of whom scored the fight 115-113 for Bradley. He even received death threats in the aftermath.

Topping Provodnikov in their brutal brawl and out-maneuvering Marquez, a

THE GAUNTLET

Tim Bradley has faced nine major world titleholders – past or current – in his last 12 fights and has emerged unbeaten. Here is a look at those fights.

Miguel Vazquez, UD 10 (2007)
One of only two to beat the current IBF 135-pound champ.

Junior Witter, SD 12 (2008)
Took Witter's WBC 140-pound title in the U.K.

Kendall Holt, UD 12 (2009)
Survived two knockdowns to take Holt's WBO 140-pound title.

Lamont Peterson, UD 12 (2009)
Easily outpointed the current IBF 140-pound champ.

Devon Alexander, TD 10 (2011)
Dominated the three-time champ in a fight stopped because of cuts.

Joel Casamayor, TKO 8 (2011)
Had no trouble with the aging two-division titleholder.

Manny Pacquiao, SD 12 (2012):
Emerged with his biggest victory on the scorecards.

Ruslan Provodnikov, UD 12 (2013)
Beat the current WBO 140-pound champ at his own brutal game.

Juan Manuel Marquez, SD 12 (2013)
Outboxed a master boxer in his most impressive victory.

Note: Provodnikov won his title after facing Bradley.

first-ballot Hall of Famer, in a battle between counterpunchers couldn't even make Bradley feel better about what happened against Pacquiao.

"It's one of those things where you're sitting at home and you start thinking about your life and you start thinking about all these great things that go on in your life, your family and how successful you've been," Bradley said. "But then, in the back of your mind, I'm thinking, 'Dang, I win this fight and I get no credit. In the people's eyes, I get no credit. I can't continue to go on with my career and my life without revisiting this particular fight.' Win or lose April 12, I can go back and I can rest at night. It's over. That cloud is gone. And after April 12, it should never be brought up again."

Bradley, along with Diaz, is confident he is more equipped to produce a decisive victory than he was the first time around. One, Bradley reportedly injured both feet in the first fight. They're healthy now. And, two, Bradley admits he was nervous for about the first half of their first fight, but he is now more accustomed to the huge stage.

"He matured as a boxer," Diaz said. "Going through hell and back with Ruslan and beating Marquez, his confidence level is high, and he's more mature as a fighter. That's the big difference.

'WIN OR LOSE APRIL 12, I CAN GO BACK AND I CAN REST AT NIGHT. IT'S OVER. THAT CLOUD IS GONE.'
– TIM BRADLEY

WARDROBE MALFUNCTION?

BRADLEY WON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF NOT WEARING SOCKS ON APRIL 12

By **Keith Idec**

One of the most important pieces of advice trainer Joel Diaz can offer Tim Bradley has more to do with wardrobe than strategy.

One of the first things Diaz will do before his fighter faces Manny Pacquiao on April 12 is to make sure Bradley is wearing socks. Bradley is sure his failure to wear socks in his first fight against Pacquiao was a costly mistake that led to the foot and ankle injuries that prohibited him from boxing as well as he's capable.

A big Mike Tyson fan, Bradley tried fighting without socks for the first time in the biggest fight of his career because Tyson has said the practice helped him grip the canvas and gain leverage. The WBO welterweight titleholder didn't wear socks throughout training camp for the first Pacquiao fight in June 2012, but the ring in his Indio, Calif., gym is much different from the "bouncy" ring in which he and Pacquiao fought at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

While taking a step backward to avoid a Pacquiao punch in the second round, Bradley said, he suffered ligament damage in the bottom of his left foot. The pain was so severe, Diaz asked Bradley whether he wanted the fight stopped. Bradley never considered quitting, though, and credits positive reinforcement from his corner, which included his father, Ray Bradley, for helping him fight through the pain.

The situation grew worse in the fourth round when Bradley, again attempting to avoid a Pacquiao punch, sprained his right ankle.

Those injuries, and the pain that followed, may have been partially due to Bradley's sweaty feet sliding around inside his shoes.

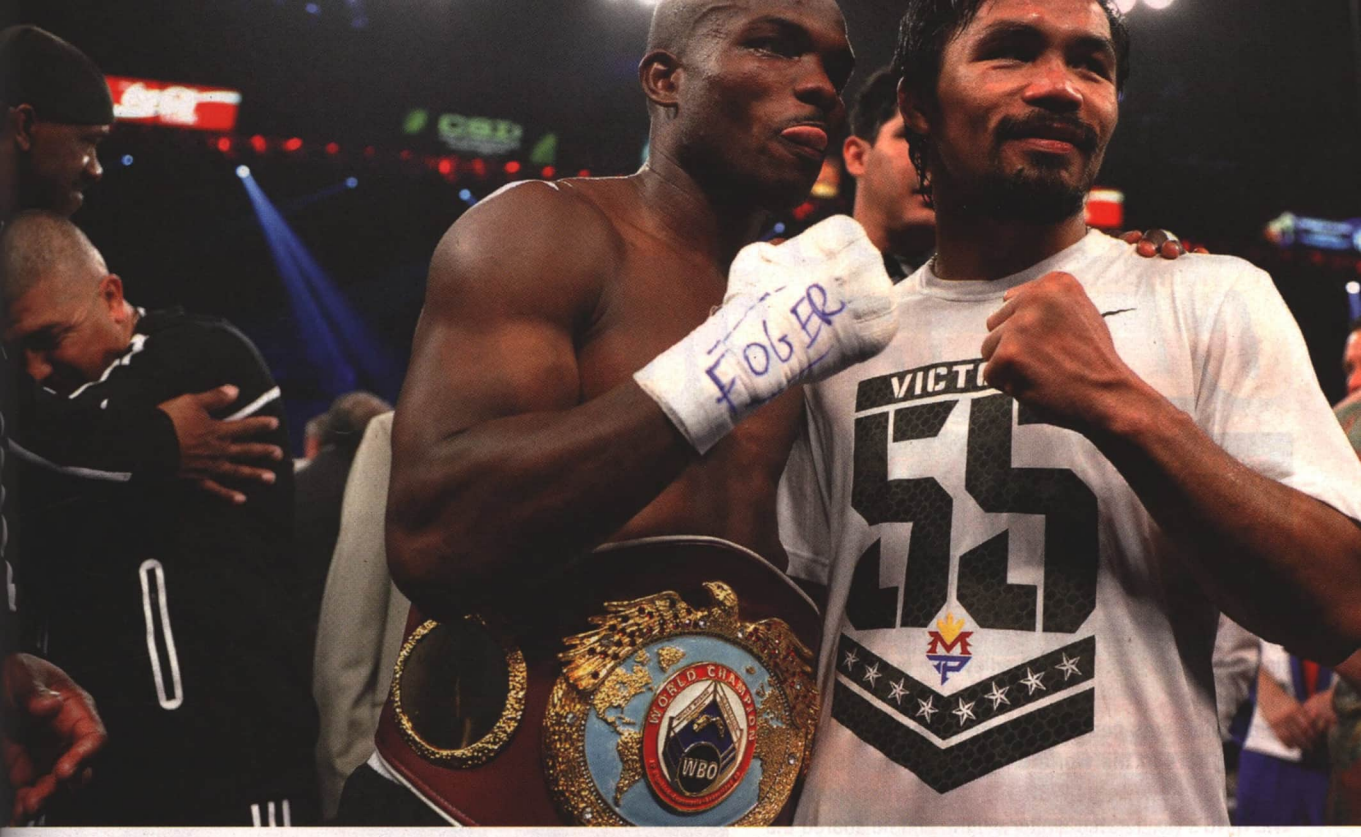
"I was battling against pain, and I was battling against Manny Pacquiao," Bradley said. "That's the hardest thing to deal with, especially when you know that you're injured, and you feel this throbbing pain in your foot, and you know that you have to continue. Most guys would've quit, but there's no quit in me. You've got to kill me to keep me down. I can be on the floor, knocked out, and I'm still going to be throwing punches."

It took nearly nine months for Bradley's foot to feel 100 percent, just in time for his memorable March 2013 fight against Ruslan Provodnikov. Bradley wore socks against Provodnikov and Juan Manuel Marquez and says he learned an invaluable lesson from abandoning what works.

"I feel like the injuries I had were overlooked after our first fight," said Bradley, who was taken to the post-fight press conference in a wheelchair after defeating Pacquiao by a split decision. "I'm going to be healthy in this fight, and that's going to make a big difference."

Diaz didn't know Bradley wasn't wearing socks until he removed Bradley's boots in the dressing room and saw the severe swelling around his right ankle.

"Trying to focus on the fight and ignoring pain, it was a big factor," said Diaz, who always wore socks when he was a professional fighter. "When you're trying to compete and you've got pain, it's very hard because mentally it throws you off. Battling pain and battling in the fight, it's hard. But when you're just focused on the fight, it's going to be a lot easier."



Bradley left the ring with a belt but also a "black cloud" after he fought Manny Pacquiao in 2012.

That plays a big role."

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer, disagrees with Diaz's assessment. While impressed with how well Bradley boxed against Marquez, against whom Pacquiao has struggled repeatedly, Roach thinks the pounding Bradley endured in the Provodnikov fight permanently impacted him.

"I don't think he's better," Roach said. "He took a lot of punishment. Ruslan gave him a beating, gave him a concussion. I don't think you can come back that quickly from concussions. He couldn't even speak right for a couple weeks. He's suffered much more damage [since their first fight] than we have. And Manny's coming off a good win [against Brandon Rios].

"I know before that [Pacquiao] was knocked out severely. But I made him take [almost] a year off to make sure he's healthy and everything's OK. So we made sure of that. And having a year off made him a little bit more hungry. In the Rios fight, he fought three minutes of every round and fought a good fight. Then Joel Diaz says my guy has lost his killer instinct. That motivated me and my fighter a little bit more to show him he's wrong."

Roach and Diaz agree that Bradley must fight more aggressively in their rematch if he is to win rounds definitively. However, a slugfest favors Pacquiao, just as it did the rugged Provodnikov, which means Bradley must take smart risks in exchanges against a stronger puncher who also promised he'll be more assertive after allowing judges to take their first fight away from him.

"This fight against Pacquiao is different than the Marquez fight," Diaz said. "Tim needs to take more risks and get in there and exchange. Manny, if you make him think, he doesn't know how to fight. But if you just come straight to get him, he's going to demolish you. When he fought [Antonio] Margarito, Margarito was just coming forward. When he fought [Miguel] Cotto, Cotto was just coming forward. When he fought Joshua Clottey, Clottey was just coming forward. When he fought Ricky Hatton, Hatton was just coming forward. But when you make him think, and you've got footwork, he gets lost every time."

Whether executing Diaz's strategy and winning his rematch against Pacquiao would lead to Bradley becoming an A-side superstar is open for debate. But it definitely would enable Bradley to shake that "Black Cloud." RING

Keith Idec covers boxing for The Record, of Woodland Park, N.J. He can be reached on Twitter @ Idecboxing.

EXPECT A CLOSE FIGHT

THE RING'S HEAD-TO-HEAD ANALYSIS

By **Doug Fischer**

Much has changed for Manny Pacquiao and Tim Bradley since their first fight, which Bradley won by controversial split decision.

Pacquiao was considered one of the two or three best fighters in the world entering the June 9, 2012, encounter. He was the WBO 147-pound titleholder and THE RING's No. 1-rated welterweight, and he shared the top position in the magazine's pound-for-pound rankings with Floyd Mayweather Jr. The Filipino icon had earned his lofty status with a 22-1-2 run since he burst onto the U.S. scene as a junior featherweight in 2001.

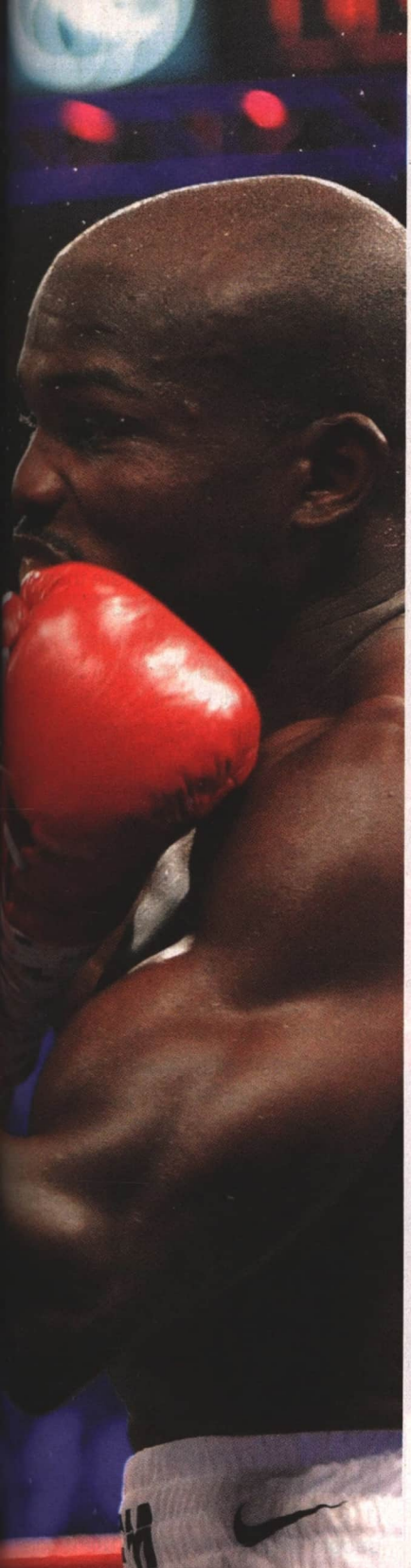
However, his success in against a string of elite opponents over an astounding eight weight classes obviously took a toll. Most observers thought he outpointed Bradley, but he lacked his customary intensity during the fight. When Pacquiao suffered a shocking one-punch knockout loss to arch rival Juan Manuel Marquez in his very next bout, some wondered whether his fighting days were over. Pacquiao proved he is still a world-class fighter by easily outpointing Brandon Rios last November. Again, though, that old "PacMan" fire was missing during his boxing clinic.

Can Pacquiao regain his once-dynamic form? Is he still an elite boxer? He seeks to answer that against Bradley, who is No. 3 in THE RING's pound-for-pound rankings.

Pacquiao won't face the same man he fought in 2012. The undefeated American narrowly outpointed a dangerous Ruslan Provodnikov in THE RING's Fight of the Year last March, and then he put forth the best boxing performance of his career by defeating Marquez by a split (but deserved) decision last October. The 30-year-old veteran enters their rematch with more maturity and confidence than he carried into their first bout. But how much has he improved technically? How much has Pacquiao faded athletically and in terms of desire?

Here's how the 2014 versions of Pacquiao and Bradley match up in 20 categories, both physical and intangible, with each fighter rated on a scale of 0 to 5. (A score of 100 would denote the perfect fighter.)

Manny Pacquiao (left) and Tim Bradley are almost dead even in THE RING's 20-category analysis.



KEY: BRADLEY PACQUIAO

1 2 3 4 5

HAND SPEED

FOOTWORK

POWER (LEAD HAND)

POWER (TRAIL HAND)

JAB

HOOK

CROSS/UPPERCUT

BODY PUNCHING

INFIGHTING SKILLS

ATHLETICISM

ENDURANCE

ABILITY TO SLIP AND BLOCK

PHYSICAL CONDITION

POISE AND ABILITY TO COPE WITH EXTERNAL PRESSURES

KILLER INSTINCT

INTELLIGENCE AND STRATEGIC DEXTERITY

CHIN AND RESILIENCE

EXPERIENCE

QUALITY OF OPPONENTS

CORNER

TOTAL:

83.0 BRADLEY

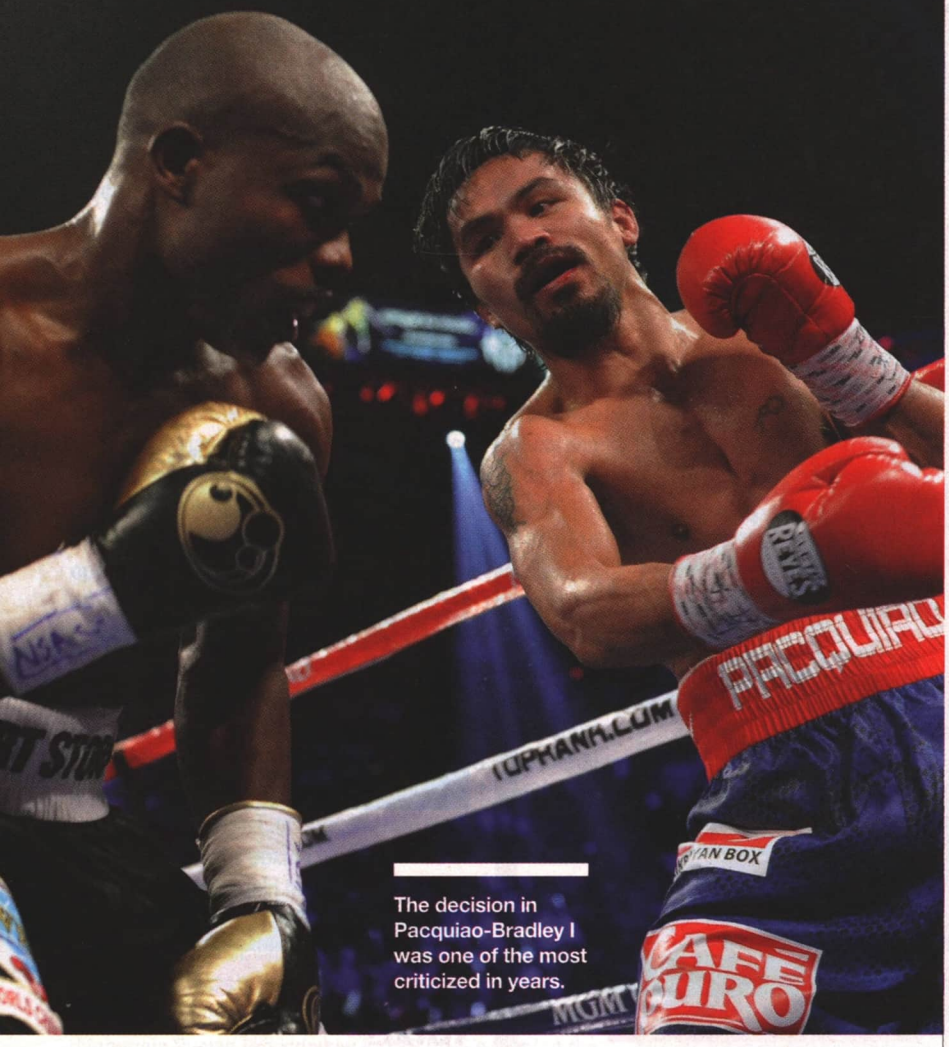
82.5 PACQUIAO

SUMMARY AND PREDICTION:

Bradley will try to set the tempo of the fight, out-jabbing and outmaneuvering Pacquiao from a distance. However, Pacquiao will occasionally land eye-catching left hands during their exchanges, and the crowd favorite will turn up the heat in the final minute of each round, backing Bradley up with blazing one-two combinations. When the two engage on the inside, Bradley will have the edge either by working Pacquiao over with body shots or by tying him up.

Bradley will win a close and competitive split decision, which will be disputed by some but not nearly as controversial as their first bout.

DEBACLE REVISITED



The decision in Pacquiao-Bradley I was one of the most criticized in years.

A LOOK BACK AT THE NUMBERS MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO CONCLUDE BRADLEY BEAT PACQUIAO IN THEIR FIRST FIGHT

By **Michael Rosenthal**

As bad decisions go, Manny Pacquiao vs. Tim Bradley I was a doozy. The vast majority of those who saw the bout, on June 9, 2012, believe the split decision in Bradley's favor was horrible.

The most striking post-fight poll was conducted by Ryan Maquiñana of Comcast SportsNet Bay Area, in which 48 of 51 boxing experts (94.1 percent) said they scored the fight for Pacquiao. Other polls revealed similar percentages. In a RingTV.com poll, 87.6 percent of roughly 20,000 readers indicated that Bradley didn't deserve the decision, 7.1 percent said he did, and 5.3 percent said it could've gone either way. In an HBO poll, 91 percent of voters scored the fight for Pacquiao, while 7 percent believed Bradley won, and 2 percent called it a draw.

Punch stats also support a Pacquiao victory, although they are unofficial. Pacquiao landed more punches and at a higher rate than Bradley – 253 of 751 (34 percent) to 159 of 839 (19 percent), according to CompuBox. The same holds true of power punches, Pacquiao having the edge 190 of 493 (39 percent) to 108 of 390 (28 percent).

Further, according to CompuBox, Pacquiao outlanded Bradley in total punches in 10 of the 12 rounds, with Bradley having an edge in one round and one round even. The ratio was similar in power punches, Pacquiao outlanding Bradley in 11 rounds with one round even. However, it should be pointed out that Pacquiao had a power-punch edge of no more than two punches in four rounds.

Interestingly, as CompuBox pointed out, Pacquiao had total-punch advantages of 22-8 and 27-11 in Rounds 5 and 7, yet two judges – C.J. Ross and Duane Ford – scored both rounds for Bradley. The third judge, Jerry Roth, also scored Round 7 for Bradley.

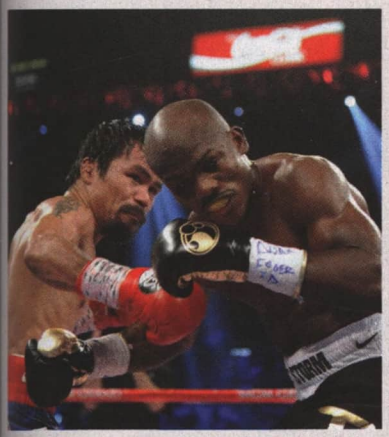
Of course, judging is very subjective. The three boxing experts who believe Bradley won the first fight – Thomas Hauser (115-114), Bart Barry (116-115) and Brian Kenny (116-112) – are all respected boxing people. Hauser and Barry are regular contributors to THE RING Magazine.

At the same time, in light of the facts presented above, the official final scoring – 115-113 Bradley (Ross), 115-113 Bradley (Ford) and 115-113 Pacquiao (Roth) – is a tough sell.

COMPUBOX STATISTICS PACQUIAO VS. BRADLEY I

TOTAL PUNCHES LANDED / THROWN												
Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pacquiao	11/42	18/37	21/50	35/81	22/65	24/58	27/77	15/59	25/94	14/54	21/66	20/68
	26%	49%	42%	43%	34%	41%	35%	25%	27%	26%	32%	29%
Bradley	10/78	15/72	11/65	15/65	8/68	10/48	11/67	9/70	26/78	14/64	15/76	15/88
	13%	21%	17%	23%	12%	21%	16%	13%	33%	22%	20%	17%
JABS LANDED / THROWN												
Pacquiao	4/21	6/18	8/20	4/13	4/23	6/22	5/18	3/14	3/16	5/34	6/26	9/33
	19%	33%	40%	31%	17%	27%	28%	21%	19%	15%	23%	27%
Bradley	5/54	4/34	3/31	2/18	4/31	5/32	2/32	2/43	5/26	5/39	9/55	5/54
	9%	12%	10%	11%	13%	16%	6%	5%	19%	13%	16%	9%
POWER PUNCHES LANDED / THROWN												
Pacquiao	7/21	12/19	13/30	31/68	18/42	18/36	22/59	12/45	22/78	9/20	15/40	11/35
	33%	63%	43%	46%	43%	50%	37%	27%	28%	45%	38%	31%
Bradley	5/24	11/38	8/34	13/47	4/37	5/16	9/35	7/27	21/52	9/25	6/21	10/34
	21%	29%	24%	28%	11%	31%	26%	26%	40%	36%	29%	29%

TOTALS												
TOTAL PUNCHES		JABS	POWER	PUNCHES								
Pacquiao		253/751	63/258	190/493								
		34%	24%	39%								
Bradley		159/839	51/449	108/390								
		19%	11%	28%								



OFFICIAL SCORING	JERRY ROTH	OFFICIAL SCORING	C.J. ROSS	OFFICIAL SCORING	DUANE FORD
	Pacquiao vs. Bradley		Pacquiao vs. Bradley		Pacquiao vs. Bradley
1.	10-9		10-9		9-10
2.	9-10		9-10		10-9
3.	10-9		10-9		10-9
4.	10-9		10-9		10-9
5.	10-9		9-10		9-10
6.	10-9		10-9		10-9
7.	9-10		9-10		9-10
8.	10-9		9-10		9-10
9.	10-9		10-9		9-10
10.	9-10		9-10		9-10
11.	9-10		9-10		10-9
12.	9-10		9-10		9-10
	Total 115-113		Total 113-115		Total 113-115

THE COMCAST POLL

Barry Tompkins, Showtime: 119-110 Pacquiao

Harold Lederman, HBO: 119-109 Pacquiao

Ray Markarian, The Sweet Science: 119-109 Pacquiao

Michael Marley, Examiner: 119-109 Pacquiao

Dan Rafael, ESPN: 119-109 Pacquiao

Vittorio Tafur, San Francisco Chronicle: 119-109 Pacquiao

Michael Woods, The Sweet Science: 119-109 Pacquiao

Ramon Aranda, 3 More Rounds: 118-110 Pacquiao

Mario Cabrera, Boxing Republic: 118-110 Pacquiao

Nigel Collins, ESPN: 118-110 Pacquiao

Mike Coppinger, RingTV.com: 118-110 Pacquiao

Ace Freeman, Fight Fan: 118-110 Pacquiao

Rich Marotta, KFI Los Angeles: 118-110 Pacquiao

Kelsey McCarson, The Sweet Science: 118-110 Pacquiao

Gabriel Montoya, MaxBoxing: 118-110 Pacquiao

Pete O'Brien, USA Today: 118-110 Pacquiao

Eric Raskin, Grantland: 118-110 Pacquiao

Michael Rosenthal, THE RING Magazine: 118-110 Pacquiao

Colin Seymour, Examiner: 118-110 Pacquiao

Ryan Songalia, RingTV.com: 118-110 Pacquiao

Ryan Burton, Boxing Scene: 117-112 Pacquiao

Scott Christ, Bad Left Hook: 117-111 Pacquiao

Tim Dahlberg, Associated Press: 117-111 Pacquiao

Gareth Davies, London Daily Telegraph: 117-111 Pacquiao

Doug Fischer, RingTV.com: 117-111 Pacquiao

David Greisman, Boxing Scene: 117-111 Pacquiao

Jorge Hernandez, The Low Blow: 117-111 Pacquiao

Kevin Iole, Yahoo! Sports: 117-111 Pacquiao

Robert Littal, Black Sports Online: 117-111 Pacquiao

Steve Kim, MaxBoxing: 117-111 Pacquiao

Ryan Maquiñana, Comcast SportsNet Bay Area: 117-111 Pacquiao

David Mayo, MLive: 117-111 Pacquiao

Kieran Mulvaney, HBO: 117-111 Pacquiao

Lance Pugmire, Los Angeles Times: 117-111 Pacquiao

Chris Robinson, Boxing Scene: 117-111 Pacquiao

Cliff Rold, Boxing Scene: 117-111 Pacquiao

Champ Ross, Da Truth Boxing: 117-111 Pacquiao

Luis Sandoval, Boxing Scene: 117-111 Pacquiao

Jonathan Sakti, Comcast SportsNet Bay Area: 117-111 Pacquiao

Tim Starks, Queensberry Rules: 117-111 Pacquiao

Richie Tomassini, Comcast SportsNet Bay Area: 117-111 Pacquiao

Darren Velasco, 8 Count News: 117-111 Pacquiao

Rick Reeno, Boxing Scene: 116-112 Pacquiao

George Willis, New York Post: 116-112 Pacquiao

Steve Zemach, Queensberry Rules: 116-112 Pacquiao

Armando Alvarez, Telemundo: 115-113 Pacquiao

Jake Donovan, Boxing Scene: 115-113 Pacquiao

Lem Satterfield, RingTV.com: 115-113 Pacquiao

Thomas Hauser, HBO: 115-114 Bradley

Bart Barry, 15 Rounds: 116-115 Bradley

Brian Kenny, Top Rank: 116-112 Bradley

NAOKI FUKUDA

TOUGH SELL

PROMOTIONAL TRICKS, SUCH AS ONLINE POLLS, WON'T HELP **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** AND **MARCOS MAIDANA** APPROACH THE PAY-PER-VIEW NUMBERS MAYWEATHER AND CANELO ALVAREZ PUT UP

By **Tim Smith**

One challenge Floyd Mayweather Jr. often faces is finding a marketable opponent.

It will indeed be a great day in boxing when Floyd Mayweather Jr. rips a page from the script of the movie *Rocky* and pulls an Apollo Creed. Being the king of the boxing world, Mayweather should give "a nobody a chance to be a somebody" the way Creed did for Rocky Balboa.

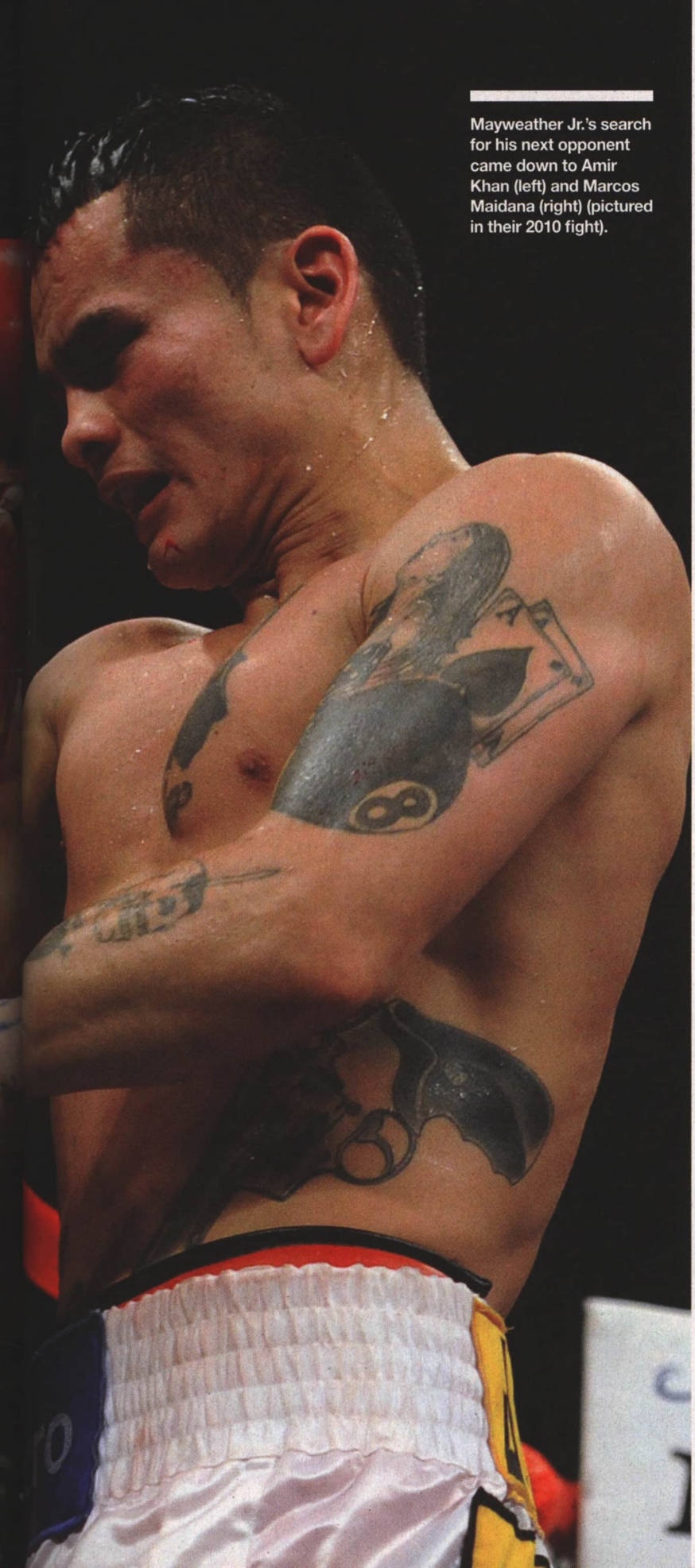
The imaginative plot device garnered the film an Academy Award for Best Picture in 1976. What the screenwriter (Sylvester Stallone) did for Creed was certainly more creative than what Mayweather did in trying to create excitement for his latest pay-per-view extravaganza, scheduled for May 3.

Mayweather allowed the fans to vote for the opponent for the fight. But he gave them only two choices – Amir Khan and Marcos Maidana. As choices go, it was about as exciting as choosing paper or plastic at the supermarket. As plot devices go, it didn't have the flair of Apollo Creed.

By the time that Mayweather made his final selection, choosing Maidana as the man who will get the golden ticket, the announcement was anticlimactic and devoid of any drama. Several media outlets reported that a deal with Khan was more or less in place, but Maidana seemed to become a stronger candidate as time went on.

And the poll evidently didn't matter much. When you like to control every single aspect of a boxing promotion, as Mayweather does, there is no way you're going to leave the selection of your opponent up to the fans.

Khan won the poll on the Mayweather Promotions



Mayweather Jr.'s search for his next opponent came down to Amir Khan (left) and Marcos Maidana (right) (pictured in their 2010 fight).

website, where voting was open only to those on Twitter and Facebook. Khan has 1.4 million Twitter followers compared to 80,000 for Maidana. Thus, the results were predictable. That wasn't the case on four other websites where voting was open to anyone: Maidana, coming off his stunning upset of Adrien Broner, easily beat out Khan in those polls.

No matter the case it was one of the most contrived ruses ever. And that's saying something for boxing.

Maidana is a one-dimensional boxer, noted more for his power than his boxing acumen. Khan would have been the better choice. He fits in nicely among Mayweather's recent opponents. He has a good boxing pedigree, winning the silver medal for Britain as a 17-year-old in the 2004 Olympic Games, and winning and then losing a few junior welterweight titles. He doesn't have the pure punching power of Maidana, but he can equal Mayweather in speed. However, like Mayweather's recent opponents, he can't match the pound-for-pound best in skills.

That's the problem Mayweather has. And cheap promotional tricks aren't going to change that.

Canelo Alvarez was built up as a legitimate threat. He had an entire nation in his corner, which bolstered his appeal. The combination of those two things and Mayweather's popularity drove the pay-per-view numbers through the roof. The fight did 2.2 million buys, which was short of the record 2.5 million he did against Oscar De La Hoya in 2007. But it grossed more in revenue ($150 million) than the De La Hoya fight ($136 million).

Khan, who hails from Bolton,

The Mayweather-Canelo Alvarez fight had all the elements of a huge promotion.

England, has his share of fans in the U.K. But he is not the same national sensation as Alvarez. He would be a tough sell to American boxing fans, who have recently watched him lose a split decision to Lamont Peterson and get stopped on a fourth round TKO by Danny Garcia. That would put a damper on Showtime's pay-per-view figures and hit Mayweather where he least likes to get hit – in the wallet.

It will be impossible for Mayweather-Maidana or Mayweather-any opponent other than Manny Pacquiao to approach the figures that the Alvarez fight did.

With the exception of Victor Ortiz and Alvarez, the Mayweather fights that have crossed the 1 million buy mark have been against opponents who also have strong track records – Juan Manuel Marquez (1 million), Shane Mosley (1.4 million) and Miguel Cotto (1.5 million).

There are several viable, fan-friendly matches for Mayweather to make in the remaining three fights he has under his deal with Showtime. There is Timothy Bradley, an undefeated welterweight champion on the pound-for-pound list. There are young guns like Danny Garcia and Keith Thurman. There is a leap to middleweight, where he could face Gennady Golovkin. And of course there is always Pacquiao, a matchup that has become as elusive as Moby Dick.

Of course, Mayweather will only fight who Mayweather wants to fight. That is the deal he has with Showtime. And you can't blame him for making the network stick to the agreement.

The only thing that will prompt Mayweather to deviate from that list and take on another "risky" opponent is his ego. If he trounces Maidana and then lines up another similar opponent, there will be a tremendous fan backlash. Does he continue going down that same path, shoving unpopular opponents down the fans' throats and risk damaging his legacy in those last three fights? Part of that legacy already is that he never fought Pacquiao in his prime.

If Mayweather really wanted to do something for the fans, he should truly open up the voting to them. The only limit he should place on their choice is weight. And he should have the results handled by a third party that has nothing to do with his promotional company or Showtime.

That would be something that even Apollo Creed couldn't top, because chances are Mayweather would be fighting a boxer who is already a real "somebody," at least in the eyes of the majority of the fans. RING

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

THE CIVILITY OF BOXING IS ROOTED IN GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

By **Gordon Marino**

One could argue that neither Victor Ortiz (left) nor Floyd Mayweather Jr. behaved in a sportsmanlike manner when they met in 2011.

Though some of the most fervent fight fans might think otherwise, boxing is not war, not Afghanistan – it is a sport. And as such it might be good for people involved in the gloved game to pause now and then to ponder the meaning of sportsmanship in boxing.

Teddy Atlas recently punched out his position: "Many people see boxing as barbaric, and when there is no sportsmanship, maybe they're right."

But what does sportsmanship amount to in the world of the ring? At a bare minimum, obeying the rules. A sterling example of ring etiquette, Andre Ward reflected, "The rules are there to protect us in this very dangerous sport. And in that sense, the first rule of

sportsmanship in boxing has to be to play by the rules."

A lot of boxers will tell you that it is perfectly legitimate to do anything the referee will let you get away with. As this dogma goes, if you have an inept third man who perhaps does not stop you from pulling your foe's head down, then pull away.

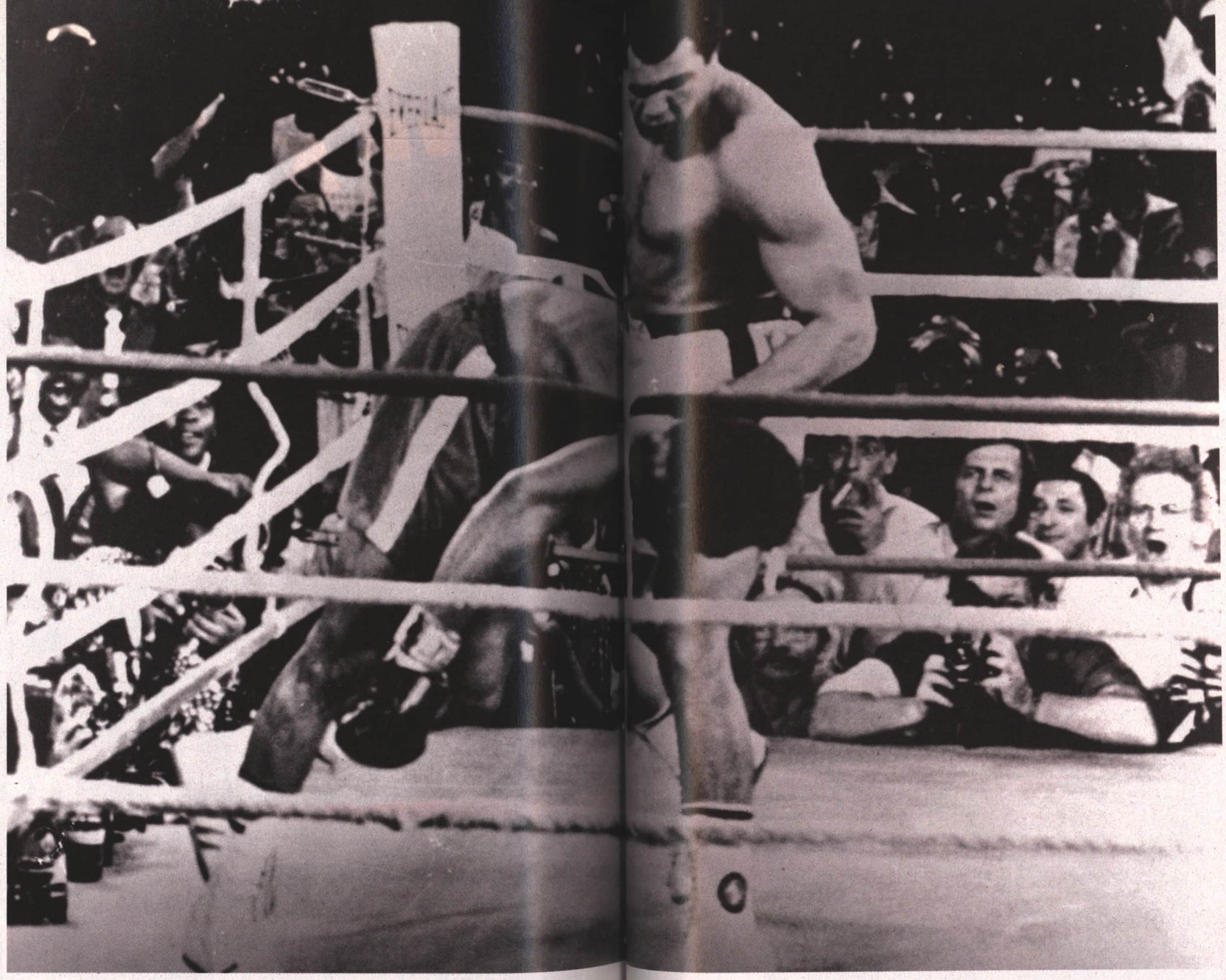
"When I am in there with someone who is intentionally breaking the rules," Ward said, "I will do what I need to do to protect myself. It is a fine line. And you don't want to go too far in retaliating. But if the referee is not enforcing the rules, you have to do what you need to do to protect yourself. So [if] my opponent is continually punching me in the back of the head, and the ref is not doing anything, I will push him away inside even though pushing is illegal."

Pestered as to why he did not go for the knockout in the final stanza of the Brandon Rios fight, Manny Pacquiao explained that he knew he had the win so there was no need to try to hurt his man. As PacMan often reminds us, "Boxing is sport" – again, not war, not attempted murder.

"Sportsmanship is very important to me because it is my way of displaying respect to the sport of boxing, to my opponent and to the fans," Pacquiao said. "My opponent and I may be competing against each other, but it doesn't mean it has to be personal. … It's my responsibility as a role model to treat this sport with respect."

Respect is a word that is bandied about a good deal in boxing and in our culture at large. Often it is just an empty phrase, but boxing, perhaps, more than any other sport, teaches something concrete and palpable about R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

"At the end of a fight you will see fighters hugging," Atlas said. "There is nothing like that, nothing so intense, in any other sport. Strange as it might seem, even though they were beating on one another, they were also on a journey together. They both know and appreciate what the other guy has been through, they both understand the fear that their opponent had to walk through just to get in the ring. And they deeply respect one another for doing that." But on those rare occasions when the other guy just stomps out of the ring, the respect that is part of boxing's raison d'etre is severely eroded.



Muhammad Ali could have punched George Foreman at this moment but didn't, an apparent nod to fair play.

At the risk of sounding like a pedant, for those who take sportsmanship seriously, there is something more important than having your hand raised; namely, conducting yourself honorably and with respect for yourself, your opponent, and your craft.

This would mean that when a young fighter like Victor Ortiz is in against a Floyd Mayweather Jr. and everyone is coaching him to rough the great boxer up, to make it a street brawl, he won't go so far as to use his skull like a cudgel. Likewise, sportsmanship would, I think, also suggest that when the overheated Ortiz goes to apologize one time too many, Mayweather does not take the opportunity to coldcock him, even though it is within the rules to do so. In life, not every legal act is moral, and in boxing there are written and unwritten rules.

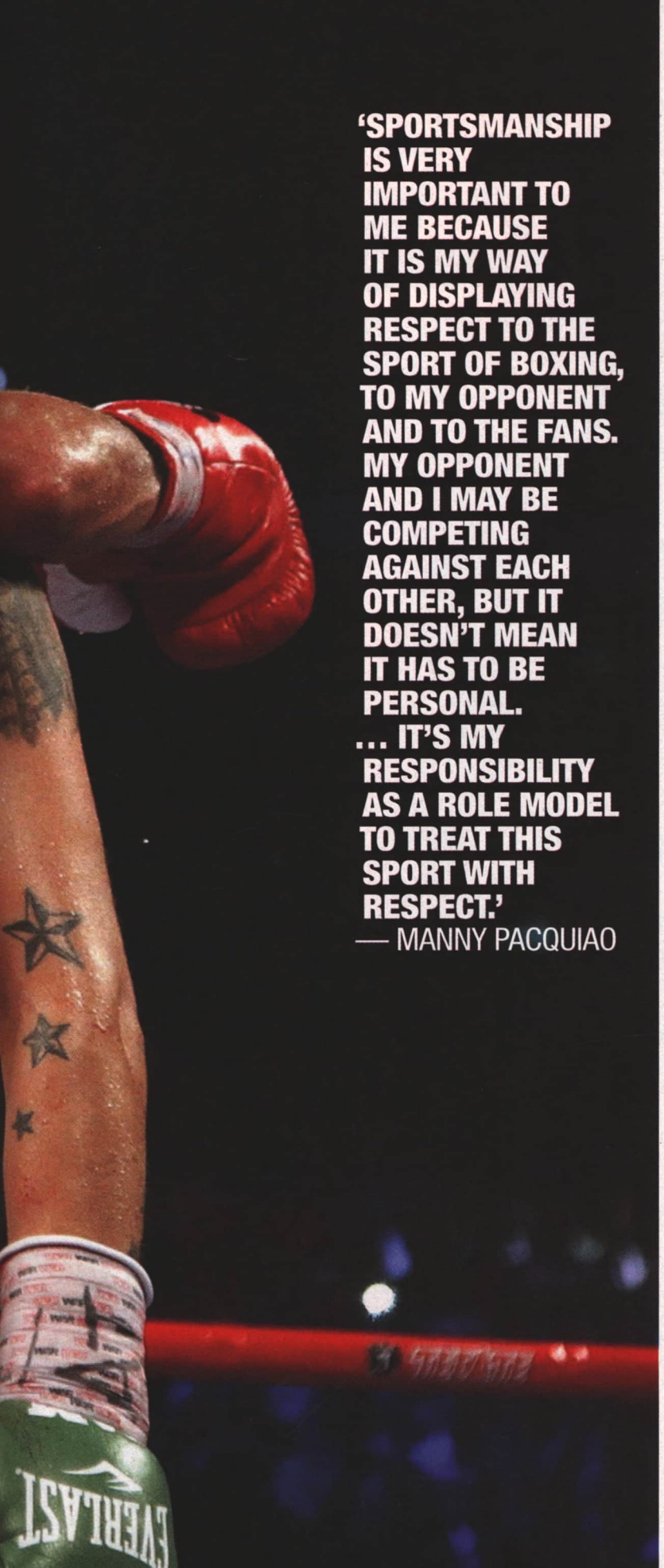
In the title tilt between Gennady Golovkin and Matthew Macklin, Macklin lost his balance along the ropes and started to slip. Golovkin would have been within the rules to take the advantage and hammer him, but instead he stepped back and allowed his rival to reset. That was boxing sportsmanship.

The peculiar thing about boxing is that sportsmanship can coexist with brutal intentions. A font of insight about his craft, Paulie Malignaggi told me, "To be honest, when that bell rings, the other guy becomes a target for me. If I were in a [street] fight and I hurt somebody, I would probably back off. Not in the ring. When I have someone hurt I go after them and try to inflict more damage. It is a dark place to be, but you have to have that mindset in boxing otherwise you are going to be the one getting hurt." He continued, "That mindset creates a lot of stress. That's why it's a relief when the fight is over and you go over shake hands and tell the guy who you were just trying to knock out, 'Great fight.'"

Like Atlas and just about everyone else in boxing, Malignaggi pointed to those moments after the final bell. He explained, "That hug at the end of a fight is the most important part of sportsmanship. The boxers need it, and I think the fans do, too." According to Malignaggi, it is as though the contest elicits a catharsis of destructive impulses and that post-fight embrace returns both the combatants and spectators to a more humanized frame of mind.

When Muhammad Ali had George Foreman spiraling towards the canvas in Zaire, he could have landed another shot but held his fire knowing that Big George was done. That was a noble gesture, but Al Bernstein recently reminded me, "Ali was

Sportsmanship obviously is high on Manny Pacquiao's list of priorities.



'SPORTSMANSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE IT IS MY WAY OF DISPLAYING RESPECT TO THE SPORT OF BOXING, TO MY OPPONENT AND TO THE FANS. MY OPPONENT AND I MAY BE COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER, BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN IT HAS TO BE PERSONAL. ... IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A ROLE MODEL TO TREAT THIS SPORT WITH RESPECT.'
— MANNY PACQUIAO

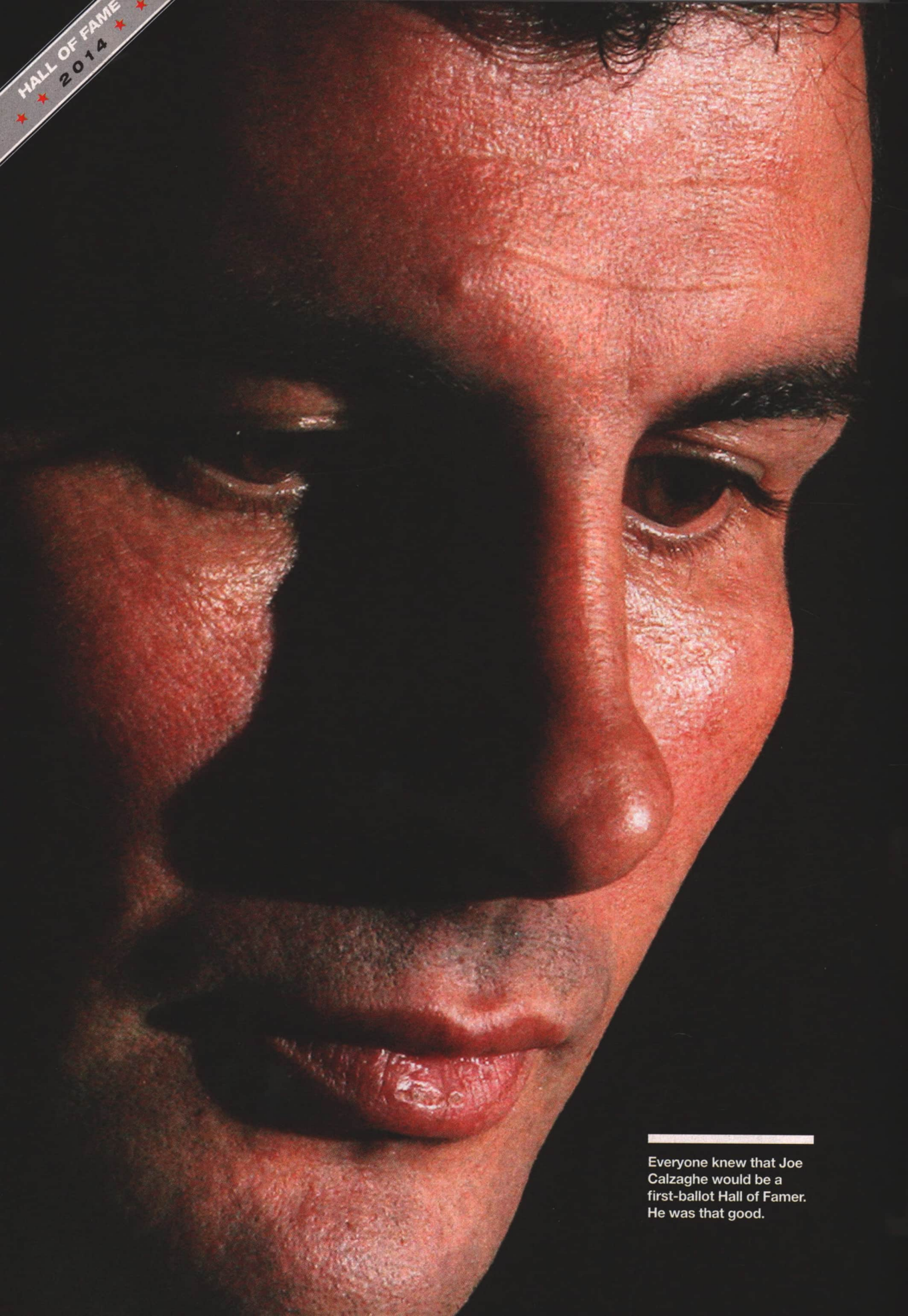
a great sportsman. Still, it was really Ali who was the first one to use humiliation in the ring as a tactic to get a psychological edge over his opponents." Is it unsportsmanlike to try to make your opponent seem like a fool in the squared circle?

There is no formula for discerning the line between legitimate psychological tactics and something much more unsavory, such as Adrien Broner's humping act with Marcos Maidana. Fans of the American martial arts, such as those of professional wrestling, find taunting entertaining. Neverthless, Sugar Ray Robinson, Joe Louis, Archie Moore and nearly every member of the boxing pantheon were able to scale the heights without attempting to degrade the athlete in front of them.

Wladimir Klitschko, who endured Dereck Chisora spitting water in his face, also believes that the code of sportsmanship is a shield of self-protection. But the super-sized champion connected some surprising dots. Klitschko insisted, "Look, the promoters also have a part in boxing sportsmanship. They need to make sure that fighters on the undercard have health insurance."

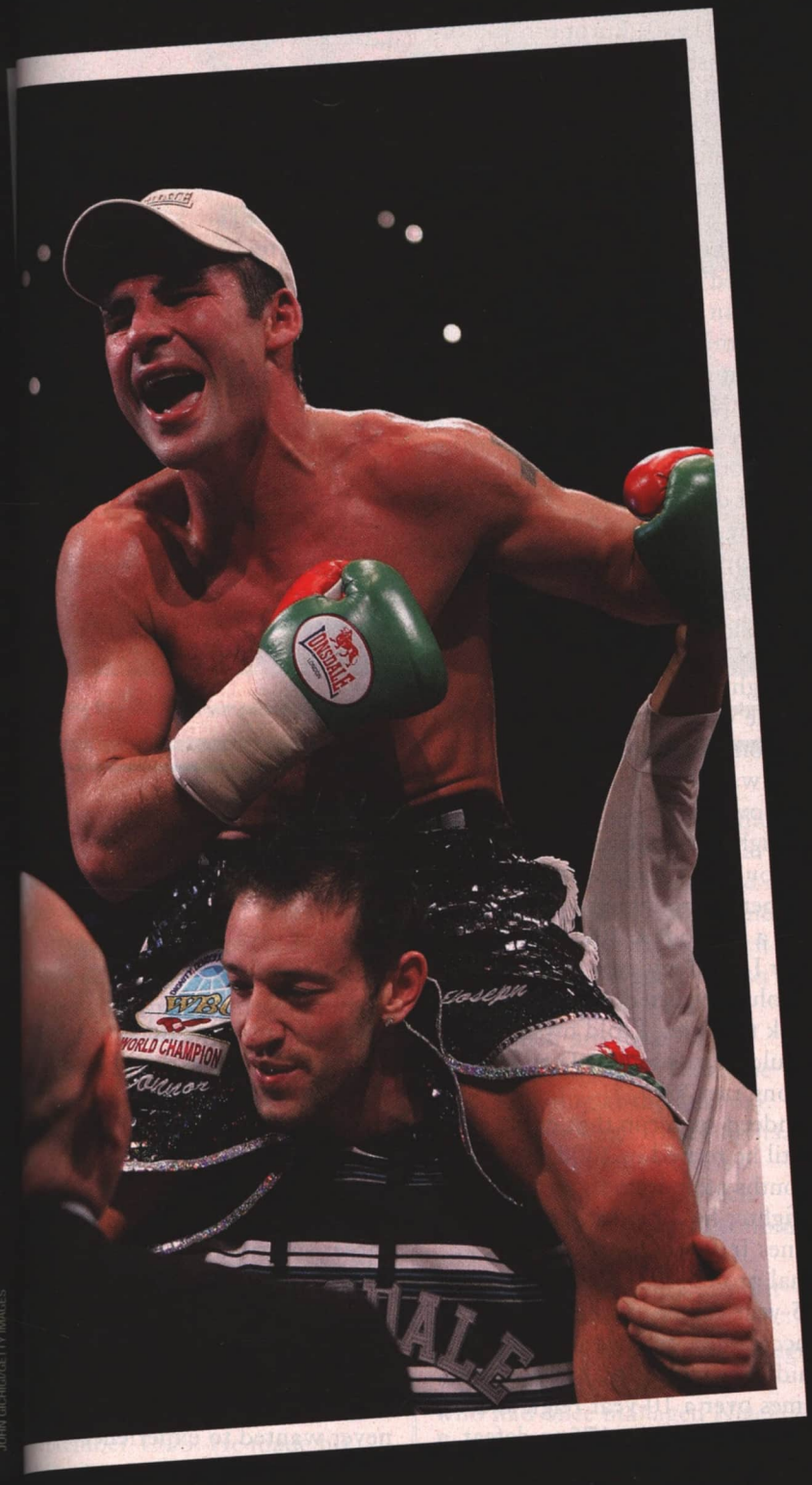
Tim Bradley regards world championship boxing as a life and death struggle. "It is," he stressed, "a hurtin' sport. ... It is like kill or be killed." Nevertheless, there are codes of conduct. Said Bradley, "I always try to act with dignity and pride. I'm trying to have a good impact on the face of boxing. I'm trying to show that you don't have to be a badass to be a winner in the sport. I'm trying to show that good guys finish first." And good guys abide by the spirit and letter of the strictures.

When asked how to best teach sportsmanship, Bradley maintained, "More than anything sportsmanship is a product of your upbringing. How you were treated as a kid." To put it another way, boxing does not build character so much as it reveals it. RING



Everyone knew that Joe Calzaghe would be a first-ballot Hall of Famer. He was that good.

PERFECTION



JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

2014 INDUCTEE **JOE CALZAGHE** HATED LOSING SO MUCH THAT HE REFUSED TO DO IT AS A PRO. HE FINISHED HIS REMARKABLE CAREER 46-0.

By **Ron Borges**

Joe Calzaghe still remembers the first one 31 years ago. And he'll never forget the last one even though it has been 23 years since they raised the hand of a Romanian amateur named Adrian Opreda instead of his own. He remembers them all, which might be why there were so few of them.

In June, Calzaghe will join Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad in the latest class of inductees into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, an honor he neither pursued nor thought much about until last year. What he thought about was not crying, or at least not putting himself in a position where he knew his tears would flow.

"I cried every time I lost a fight," Calzaghe recalled recently while on a skiing holiday in Bulgaria. "I always felt empty when I lost. I lost my first fight. I was 10, and I cried even after my coach told me one of the judges was the other boy's father. I can't remember most of the amateur fights I won (110 of 120), but I

still remember what losing felt like. I beat that boy five times after that, so I guess that's been well paid back."

Calzaghe focused on keeping his tear ducts from flowing by constantly training inside an unheated, hardscrabble shack in Tre Celyn, South Wales, a barely standing building with a corrugated tin roof that his father and lifelong trainer, Enzo, called the Newbridge Boxing Club. That tottering building would produce no hot water, but would build three world champions and one fighter time will not forget.

The road from that dank place with a carpet for a ring mat to boxing immortality was a long march littered with a string of injuries to his hands and very few times those hands weren't raised at the end of a fight. The latter happened just enough to keep someone whose biography would be titled *No Ordinary Joe* focused on making sure that would be the case. Joe Calzaghe, in the end, would be anything but ordinary.

"If I have one regret, it's not going to the Barcelona Olympics in 1992," said the 41-year-old former undisputed super middleweight and light heavyweight champion who finished his pro career 46-0 (with 32 knockouts). "I won my first schoolboy title when I was 13. I weighed about 30 kilos (66 pounds). I still remember to this day what that felt like to be a winner, to be champion of something. From that day I dreamed of being world champion.

"I won four schoolboy ABA titles and three consecutive senior ABA titles in Britain [between 1990-1993]. I was ranked No. 1 in my weight by the ABA in 1992, but they took Robin Reid to Barcelona instead of me. They said it was because I hadn't fought in an international tournament because of an injury.

"My wrist was already bothering me, as it would my whole career, but I hadn't lost since the [1990] European Junior championships [in Prague]. It was a disappointment."

It was also the last time anyone would defeat him. That the details remain as fresh to him today as they did then sheds some light on why it never happened again.

"Adrian Opreda," Calzaghe says immediately when asked if he can recall his opponent's name. "He was Romanian. It was one of the first times I'd ever worn headgear. I hated the thing. I didn't even use them in sparring, but they were required in Europe. I wasn't used to it, and I spent most of my time fiddling with my headgear while he kept putting his left foot on my right foot and tapping me like he was fencing. He just kept one long arm out there.

"It was close, but in those days the Soviet bloc still existed, and the fight was in Czechoslovakia, so you knew what was going to happen. I thought the decision was a bit dodgy. When it was over I cried my eyes out. I was absolutely gutted. When I got back to Wales, I told myself I wouldn't lose again. Then I had a long run."

Indeed so, a run that didn't end until he retired in 2009, three months after soundly defeating a fighter he'd long admired, Roy Jones Jr. It was the 46th and final professional victory of a 15-year career in which he had successfully defended the super middleweight title 21 consecutive times over a 10-year reign and then moved up to 175 to defeat two legends of their sport, Bernard Hopkins and Jones, before deciding he'd had enough.

Yet when asked about victories, Joe Calzaghe first recalls defeat. One might think its sting would be long faded by now, erased by a professional career so brilliant he was elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. But for Calzaghe it is victory that fades quickly while defeat lingers, a dark reminder of a feeling he never wanted to experience again.

CLASS OF 2014

The 12 boxing figures who will be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June.

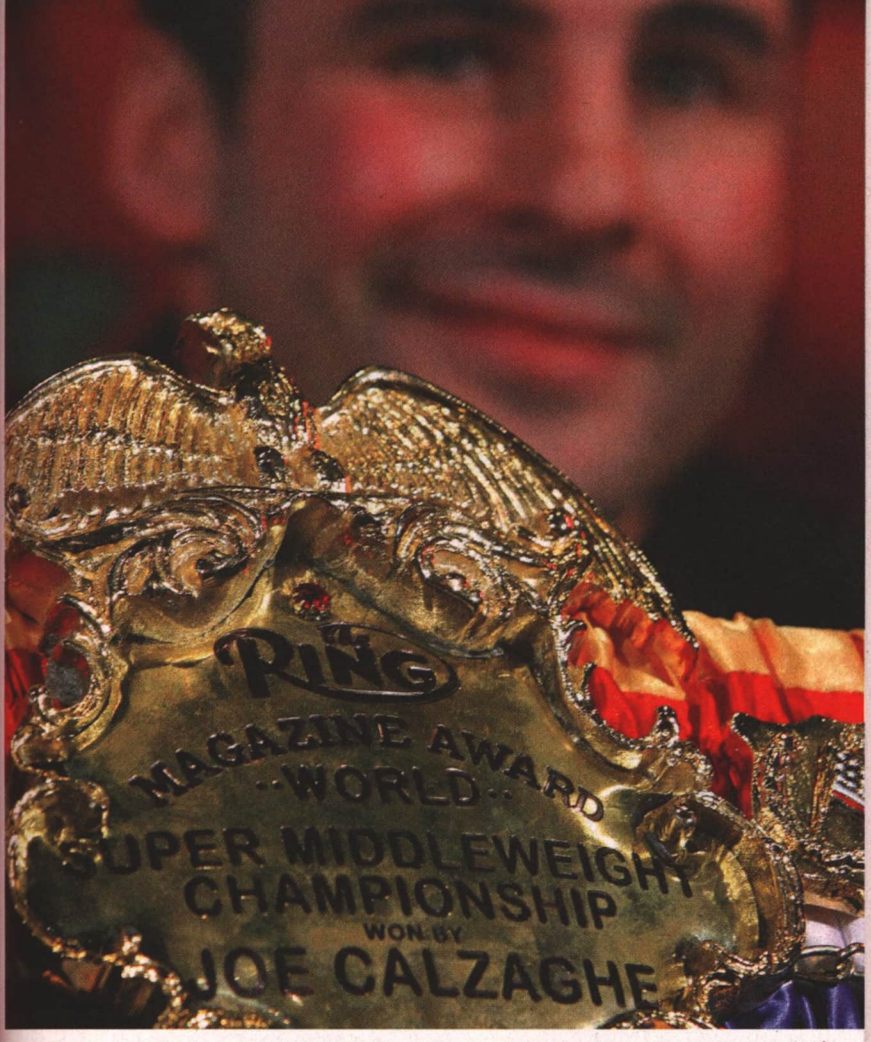
MODERN
Last bout no earlier than 1943
JOE CALZAGHE
OSCAR DE LA HOYA
FELIX TRINIDAD

OLD-TIMER
Last bout must fall between 1893 and 1942
GEORGE CHANEY
CHARLES LEDOUX
MIKE O'DOWD

PIONEER
Last pro bout in or before 1892
TOM ALLEN

NON-PARTICIPANT
EUGENE CORRI, referee
BARRY HEARN, promoter
RICHARD STEELE, referee

OBSERVER
GRAHAM HOUSTON, journalist
NEIL LEIFER, photographer



Winning the RING championship was just one of Calzaghe's many accomplishments.

"Not going to Barcelona was probably a blessing," Calzaghe says now. "I remembered that just as I remembered every loss. It made me train harder. I trained like a challenger even after I was world champion. I never wanted to feel the way I did when I was 10 again. I never wanted to feel the way I did in Prague.

"Would I have been as determined if I'd gone to Barcelona and maybe won a gold medal and been given a million dollars to sign? No, I'm pretty sure I wouldn't."

Instead of gold Calzaghe signed with Britain's biggest promoter at the time, the late Mickey Duff, for less than a pittance in September 1993. He made his debut less than a month later against Paul Hanlon, who didn't last a round with him, at Cardiff Arms Park on the undercard of the Lenox Lewis-Frank Bruno heavyweight title fight, which was one of the biggest British promotions of the time.

"I turned pro for a 3,000-pound loan," Calzaghe said, laughing at the memory. "I was on a wage for 21 fights. I didn't spend much money because I didn't make much money. I was in the gym training and trying to pay off the mortgage on my house. And it was a small house!"

Three years later he would sign with promoter Frank Warren, who had once managed Nigel Benn, a world champion with one of the best nicknames in

CALZAGHE'S LEGACY

GREATEST BRITISH BOXERS

Many experts now consider Calzaghe one of the greatest British boxers of all time. THE RING ranks the U.K.'s 10 best:

1. Jimmy Wilde
2. Ted "Kid" Lewis
3. Jackie "Kid" Berg
4. Freddie Welsh
5. Jim Driscoll
6. Benny Lynch
7. Lennox Lewis
8. Joe Calzaghe
9. Owen Moran
10. Ken Buchanan

PERFECT RECORDS

Calzaghe is on a short list of boxers whose careers ended with perfect records. Here are the Top 10 (ranked by number of victories):

1. 49-0 Rocky Marciano
2. 46-0 Joe Calzaghe
3. 43-0 Samson Dutch Boy Gym
4. 34-0 Sven Ottke
5. 29-0 Harry Simon
6. 28-0 Michael Loewe
7. 27-0 Edwin Valero
8. 24-0 Scott Daley
9. 24-0 George Kandelaki
10. 24-0 Pichit Sithbanprachan

Note: In the Greatest British Boxers list, Bob Fitzsimmons was not included because he left the U.K. as a child. Also, RING correspondents Tom Gray, Harry Pratt and Anson Wainwright contributed.

boxing history. "The Dark Destroyer," Chris Eubank and Steve Collins would together engage in some of the most stirring super middleweight title fights of the mid-1990s. So it came as a shock to British boxing fans when Warren announced upon signing Calzaghe that "Joe is a far better prospect [than Benn had been]."

Four fights and 18 months later, Calzaghe would prove Warren right, winning the vacant WBO super middleweight title by defeating Eubank after Collins chose to retire claiming an injury prevented him from going through with an already arranged title defense against Calzaghe.

In the days leading up to the fight, Eubank made a promise to Calzaghe, which all these years later Calzaghe admits he delivered on.

"Steve Collins didn't want to fight me, so he gave up the title," Calzaghe said. "Nigel was shot by then, and Steve was old, so I understood his decision. Chris was coming back from losing twice to Steve, but I was more apprehensive about Chris than I would have been fighting Collins.

"I'd never been 12 rounds. The most I'd gone was eight. The week of the fight he told me he was going to take me to a place I'd never been. He was right. I dropped him about 15 seconds into the fight, and I spent the next three rounds trying to take him out. I didn't pace myself, and by the eighth round I was so exhausted. Those last four rounds were exactly what he promised.

"What got me through was hunger and will. I pushed myself through it. When they raised my hand, I was over the moon. I never thought I'd be champion for 10 years, but it was just the start."

The start of a run of consecutive title defenses the likes of which only four prize fighters have ever exceeded. Perhaps more significantly, despite constant wrist and hand woes and an inability until the final fights of his career to land the big-money matches he craved, Calzaghe never wavered.

He prepared himself for whomever was put in front of him and he won ... and won ... and won again until he clearly outpointed then undefeated Mikkel Kessler (39-0 at the time) on Nov. 3, 2007, at Millennium Stadium in Wales to claim the RING, WBC, WBA and WBO super middleweight titles in his 44th fight. Although boxing politics had denied him the IBF strap he'd won in the ring a year earlier, he was universally seen as the undisputed 168-pound champion. He also was a fighter with only one world left to conquer: America.

Despite 44 consecutive victories and an undisputed world championship, Calzaghe had never fought in the United States. It was a blemish some held against him, implying he had been carefully handled to avoid the best U.S. fighters despite the fact he had repeatedly tried to make such fights and in fact had destroyed Jeff Lacy, the American who held the IBF title, a year earlier.

Weary of criticism and his aching hands but still in search of the taste of victory, Calzaghe knew his career needed a final jolt and so he gave it one, moving up to 175 to face Hopkins for the RING light heavyweight title on April 19, 2008, in Las Vegas.

By then Calzaghe was 36 and tiring of the demands of boxing, yet he knew to end his career as he hoped, to be recognized finally for the skills he'd so long exhibited in Europe, he needed to push back against his desire to stop.

"I'd been through so many injuries and so many disappointments, not getting the big fights I wanted," Calzaghe said. "After I beat Eubank, I couldn't even spar for three fights because of my elbow, and if you can't spar, it's hard to hit a moving target. I struggled in those fights, and people wanted me to get rid of my father and get a new trainer. That's the only difficult time we really ever had.

"We talked about it, and he was disappointed, but he was going to do what was best for his son. In the end I thought what was best was to stay with him. I always wanted the unification fights but they were hard for us to get. Boxing is politics, and that was a very, very frustrating time for me.

"At one point I'd had wrist surgery and was told I'd never punch again. I didn't believe the surgeon. I kept fighting and training. I'd have been a good fighter if i wasn't hurt all the time.

"The last couple of fights I'd started to cut corners. After beating Kessler I knew I was approaching the end. I was 44-0 and had just fought in front of 50,000 people. I felt I'd accomplished all I could. I needed a new goal. I kept believing and I finally got my dream fights at the end. Frank wanted me to fight Clinton Woods in the U.K. but what else was there to achieve? The only thing left was to come to America.

"What a big win [beating Hopkins by split decision] was for me. It was a messy fight. I wasn't at my best and I know he thinks he won but I fought two American legends and won. It was a blessing to get those fights

Calzaghe felt he had nothing more to prove when he announced his retirement and has never looked back.

late in my career.

"All things come to those who wait if they keep working. I was always tremendously fit, and in the ring I was always calm. Even Hopkins, with all the things he tries and all the things he says, he couldn't get under my skin."

Nearly everyone but judge Adalaide Byrd had Calzaghe winning handily against Hopkins, the other two judges scoring the fight 116-111 and 115-112, and he dominated Jones in what would be his final fight on Nov. 8, 2008. In his last two appearances Calzaghe had fought in boxing's two biggest venues, Las Vegas and Madison Square Garden. There was nothing left to do but listen to a message he knew had been delivered to him in those last two fights.

"I knew Jones would be my last fight," Calzaghe said. "I really wanted to fight in Madison Square Garden, the mecca of boxing. It was really quite emotional for me knowing that after all I'd been through, this was the end of it.

"In the first 25 years I fought I'd been dropped two times. Then I got dropped in my last two fights. Roy really pushed me down, but still I was on the floor. Was that a coincidence or a message? Maybe I could have gone on but my time was up. It was such an honor to fight Roy in my last fight. After that, I'd had enough."

In the five years that have passed Calzaghe said he has not been tempted to follow the footsteps of so many of his predecessors and come out of retirement, instead opting to remain one of only a handful of world champions to retire undefeated. In the end he had done what he'd always hoped for. He'd left on top.

"I still feel like I can kick the ass of half the guys fighting, but I've never been close to a comeback," said Calzaghe, who now has his own promotional company, has appeared on the British version of *Dancing with the Stars* and become involved in an anti-bullying campaign. "I didn't punch a punching bag for two years. I'd run and go to the gym, but I never punched a bag. I didn't want the temptation. With all the cortisone injections in my fists and the bad elbow and all, when I quit I was done."

Done until his phone rang a few months ago and he was told those fists would have to be balled up one more time for the casting ceremony at the Hall of Fame. On that bright June day in upstate New York, Joe Calzaghe will be happy to do it one last time, the lasting proof he was indeed No Ordinary Joe. RING

Ron Borges is a columnist for the *Boston Herald* and hosts *Mouthpiece Boxing*, a weekly radio show on Yahoo! Sports Radio Network Fridays at 10 p.m.

IN GOOD HANDS

K2'S TOM LOEFFLER, A VETERAN ADVISOR, HAS THE BACKGROUND AND KNOW-HOW TO RAISE GENNADY GOLOVKIN'S PROFILE IN THE U.S.

By **Doug Fischer**

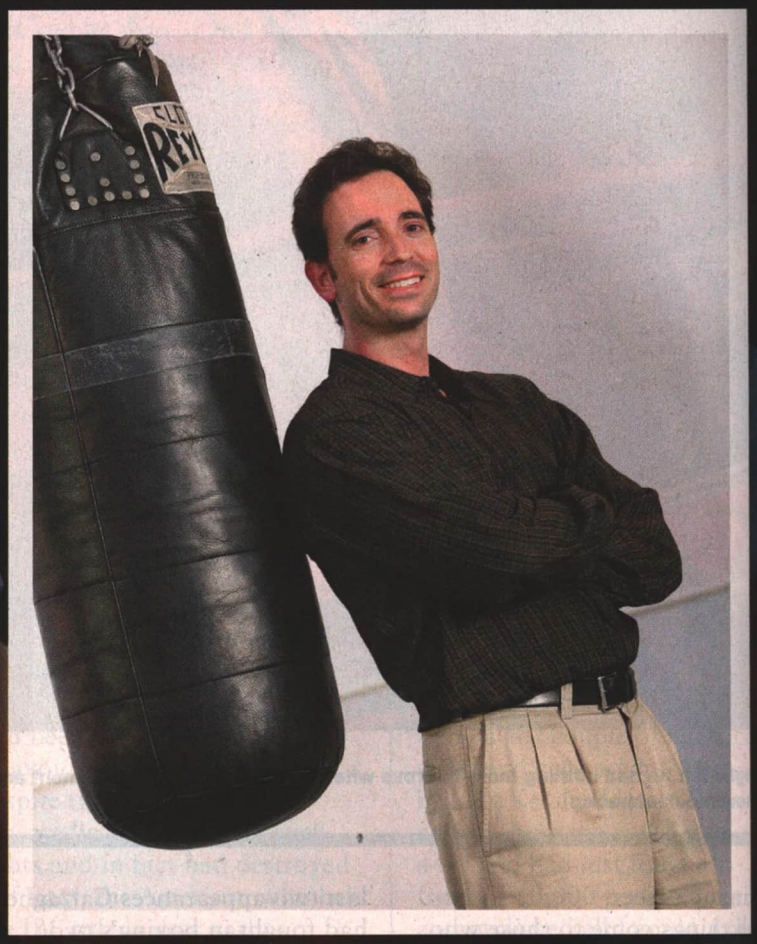
Gennady Golovkin has come a long way since his U.S. debut against Gregorz Proksa in September 2012. With each fight since Golovkin's impressive fifth-round stoppage, which was also his first fight on HBO, the undefeated WBA middleweight titleholder has grown in terms of respect and popularity.

Golovkin's eighth-round knockout of Curtis Stevens last November peaked at 1.56 million viewers with a 1.4 million average viewership, which made it HBO's third most watched boxing broadcast in 2013, according to the network.

The climb in viewership from the Proksa telecast to the Stevens bout – a 30 percent increase – is one of the steepest ratings rises ever for an HBO fighter, said Tom Loeffler, managing director of K2 Promotions, which signed Golovkin in January of 2012.

If true, it would appear that the promotional company that was started by the Klitschko brothers and Loeffler are doing a good job of raising Golovkin's stature in the U.S.

"We'd all love to say that we had foreseen Golovkin's increase in popularity, but we put him in with the best fighters that we could find – which is not easy – and his rise in the ratings demonstrates that his style is



Tom Loeffler (inset) of K2 Promotions believes Gennady Golovkin's style makes him a must-see fighter.

Loeffler (right, with Vitali Klitschko) cut his boxing teeth by guiding the careers of Oba Carr and Kevin Kelley.

must-see viewing," said Peter Nelson, the director of boxing programming for HBO Sports.

"What makes Golovkin stand out – his brand so to speak – is that he's a fighter who knocks people out. You want to tune in and you want to be there to see him no matter who he's fighting because you know you're going to see some kind of highlight. People are responding to him even though he's not in there with any big names. That's not a common occurrence in boxing.

"How far can he go? We don't know, but he's certainly fulfilled every expectation we've had for him so far, and he's still growing."

This should be another year of growth for Golovkin, who notched his 16th-consecutive stoppage with a seventh-round TKO of Osumanu Adama on Feb. 1, his first bout of 2014. The fight wasn't televised on HBO, but it set up three appearances on the U.S. cable giant this year. The first of those three was expected at press time to be a title defense against Andy Lee on April 26 in New York City, although it hadn't been finalized.

Word that Lee was the leading candidate was met with mixed reaction among boxing aficionados. Golovkin has his share of outspoken skeptics in the boxing Twitterverse who are not as sold on the 2004 Olympic silver medalist as HBO and members of the boxing media are. The doubters claim that Golovkin's impressive record – 29-0, with 26 knockouts (the highest KO ratio among active titleholders and a division record) – is more the result of mediocre opposition than his talent.

They have a point. The most notable names on Golovkin's record so far are either lower

Top 10-rated middleweights, such as Proksa, Stevens and former title challenger Matthew Macklin – who he stopped in three rounds last June – or junior middleweights who came up in weight to face him, such as former beltholder Kassim Ouma and Gabriel Rosado.

However, Golovkin's growing legion of supporters are just as vocal in defending "GGG." They point out that Top 5 middleweights, and even some highly regarded super middleweights, have declined to face him. Long-reigning titleholder Felix Sturm lobbied the WBA to allow him to face other fighters, including then-IBF titleholder Daniel Geale, even though Golovkin was the sanctioning organization's mandatory challenger. When Geale outpointed Sturm to unify the IBF and WBA straps in September 2012, thus assuming Sturm's mandatory defense obligation, the respected Australian dropped the WBA belt rather than face Golovkin.

Sturm, Geale and former 168-pound contender Edwin Rodriguez, who passed up a proposed fight with Golovkin for a more lucrative shot at super middleweight champ Andre Ward last November, aren't necessarily afraid of GGG. They simply had other options that offered equal or better pay against less-threatening foes.

Golovkin's difficulty getting elite opponents and the diehard fan debate over his legitimacy raises the question: Is it possible for a 31-year-old native of Kazakhstan who speaks broken English to become the crossover star that K2 and HBO believe he can become?

If the answer to that question eventually turns out to be "yes," much credit must be given to Loeffler, who has been in the promotional business since he helped start K2 with Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko 10 years ago but has been involved in the sport as a manager since the early 1990s.

To understand why Loeffler may be the best promoter to deal with Golovkin's dilemma and help the middleweight puncher earn stardom in the U.S., one need only examine how the 47-year-old resident of Los Angeles got his start in boxing and who he helped establish in the sport.

Loeffler's background is in finance and real estate, but when he sold his San Fernando Valley-based mortgage company to go into business with fellow young entrepreneur Harlan J. Werner, who had made his name in sports memorabilia but was branching out into representing retired athletes, he soon found himself in the wild world of professional boxing.

Loeffler assisted Werner in setting up lucrative business deals for such sports icons as Sandy Koufax, Joe Namath and Muhammad Ali, who suggested during a 1992 visit to their office that Loeffler help out two undefeated but struggling young boxing contenders.

At first, Loeffler only advised the fighters – Kevin Kelley and Oba Carr – on select boxing business matters, but he had a rapport with both and gradually assumed a managerial role over the following few years.

Loeffler helped guide Kelley, a tremendously talented featherweight from Flushing, N.Y., to the WBC title in 1993 and a significant payday against British star Naseem Hamed in '97. He began managing Carr after the skilled welterweight from Detroit lost a decision to then-titleholder Ike Quartey in 1996.

Both fighters had specific goals when they signed with Loeffler. Kelley, the first to sign with him, was a vibrant personality who believed he belonged on HBO with boxing's other major players. Carr, who was stopped by then-beltholder Felix Trinidad in '94, wanted a third crack at a world title.

Loeffler did his best to help both fighters achieve their dreams, and though he has worn a promoter's hat since 2004, at his core he's still a manager whose goals are centered on the needs of his individual clients.

"I always look at things from the fighter's perspective," Loeffler said. "Oba wasn't able to win a world title, but I helped him get one more shot as well as his biggest payday against Oscar De La Hoya. They headlined the first boxing card at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas in '99. I still say Oba's one of the best boxers not to have won a championship."

Kelley wanted more than a world title, he wanted a shot at stardom and the fast-talking southpaw believed HBO could help grant that wish. His problem was that the network seldom showcased fighters below the lightweight division at the time.

However, as Loeffler would do with Golovkin nearly 20 years later, he sat down with the HBO executives to work out a deal. In Kelley's case, his lobbying was aided by the featherweight's gift of gab.

"Kelley talked his way onto HBO," Loeffler said. "We got his title shot against Goyo Vargas added to Michael Moorer's fight [against Mike Evans] in Reno. Kevin's first title defense was a co-feature to a Lennox Lewis fight in Atlantic City. HBO wanted him back because he

was more entertaining than the heavyweights."

Loeffler takes special pride in the job he did with Kelley and Carr but says his best work as a manager may have been with Shane Mosley. "Sugar Shane" is a future first-ballot hall of famer, but in the mid-1990s he was a former U.S. amateur standout who was known only to hardcore fans in the greater Los Angeles area, where he lived and trained.

"I took Shane Mosley from being a club fighter to fighting on HBO," said Loeffler.

It sounds like an exaggeration, but it isn't. Prior to getting Mosley to sign with Cedric Kushner, who was Kelley's promoter and a regular fight supplier to HBO at the time, the undefeated lightweight had been avoided by major promoters because of his father/trainer Jack Mosley's reputation for being difficult to deal with.

Mosley, who often fought on hotel ballroom cards and outdoor shows staged in parking lots, was seldom seen on television. However, Loeffler was able to convince Jack Mosley that signing with Kushner was in his son's best interest. It wasn't a hard sell considering that Kushner promoted Philip Holiday, the IBF lightweight titleholder at the time, and guaranteed Mosley a shot at the undefeated South African on HBO's new series devoted to boxing up-and-comers, *Boxing After Dark*, in August 1997.

Mosley outclassed Holiday to win a unanimous decision, but it was a struggle finding other HBO-worthy opponents to face the new IBF beltholder, who held a record of 24-0, with 22 knockouts, after his debut on the network.

Loeffler sees similarities with Mosley's situation and what Golovkin is faced with now.

"It was very hard to get opponents for Shane," he said. "They knew him from the amateurs, and they wanted a lot of money to fight him. Shane was never marketed, so he wasn't a name, and he wasn't a ticket seller, so he didn't generate enough revenue to get promoters to overpay his opponents."

Loeffler's mission with Mosley, who was already in his mid-20s, was to quickly establish his name by keeping the fighter active and in the public eye, all while beating the drums for big fights.

Mosley fought four times in '97. He fought five times in '98 – winning all five title bouts by knockout – to earn the Boxing Writers Association of America's Fighter of the Year award.

In order to keep Mosley busy, Loeffler had him fight off HBO at times. He fought Manuel Gomez on the USA cable network three months after winning the title. He fought on HBO three times in '98 (against established names Jesse James Leija and John-John Molina, and top contender Demetrio Ceballos) and twice on basic cable against lesser opponents.

The same formula seems to be working with Golovkin, who fought four times in 2013 and was voted Fighter of the Year by fans who took part in a RingTV.com poll. Three of Golovkin's fights (against Rosado, Macklin and Stevens) were on HBO; the fourth, against Japanese gatekeeper Nobuhiro Ishida in Monte Carlo, was televised internationally but aired on a small pay-per-view show in the U.S.

Nelson credits Loeffler's cooperative spirit for Golovkin's activity and he credits that activity for the fighter's spike in popularity.

"Tom is magnificent to work with," Nelson said. "He's reasonable, he's a long-term thinker, and he wants to work with the network as a team. Tom understands that the network doesn't buy fighters. We buy fights. Fights are what make fighters. And the frequency of Golovkin's fights gives people something to point at.

"That's how you win fans. You do it by fighting frequently, fighting the best fighters you can, and delivering on fight night. That's what Golovkin does and it's a dynamic that makes casual boxing fans and MMA fans pay attention."

Loeffler's efforts to keep his fighters in the public eye go beyond the ring. He made sure Mosley was known by the top sports columnists on the East Coast and seen by fans at major sports and entertainment events.

"Kevin took Shane around to the gyms in New York and introduced him to the boxing writers, and I brought him to NBA games and to the big boxing shows, like the Evander Holyfield-Bobby Czyz fight, that took place at Madison Square Garden," said Loeffler, who did the same thing with Golovkin in early 2012.

While in New York City to shop Golovkin to the U.S. cable networks, Loeffler took his newly signed fighter to a New York Rangers game at Madison Square Garden. Later, Loeffler and Golovkin's manager, Max Hermann, met with Madison Square Garden executives and made it clear to them that Golovkin wanted to fight at the storied arena.

Loeffler, who took Golovkin to the New York City premiere of the HBO series *Boardwalk Empire* last September and to this year's Golden Globe Awards show in Los Angeles, says he's

Golovkin (right, fighting Curtis Stevens) understands the necessity of marketing himself.

working with a fighter who "gets it" when it comes to his own marketing.

"We've worked really hard to build Golovkin's name because we know he's a marketable guy," Loeffler said. "He's got a popular fighting style, but he's worked on making it more pleasing to American fans by training with an American trainer (Abel Sanchez). He trains in the U.S., at Big Bear, Calif., he's learning English.

"Gennady understands his situation. He's open to promoting himself and sacrificing time away from his family, who live in Germany, to fight as often as possible because he realizes that there's a short window."

Loeffler is confident that Golovkin can realize his dreams within that short window of opportunity.

"A month after the Proksa fight I took him to a [Nonito] Donaire fight (vs. Toshiaki Nishioka) at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. Brandon Rios and Mike Alvarado fought a war in the co-feature and their fans, who are primarily Mexican and Mexican American, were in attendance. When they saw Golovkin, they started chanting his name. That let me know that he could cross over, that he was someone who could transcend ethnic loyalties."

Mosley did that to an extent when he defeated De La Hoya in their first fight in 2000. If Golovkin can land a fight with his "Golden Boy" – RING middleweight champ Sergio Martinez or Ward – and win, how far can he climb in the boxing world?

"We don't have a crystal ball, we can't see into the future, but when you have a fighter who is charismatic outside the ring and has an intelligent but entertaining style inside the ring, you want to see how far he can go," Nelson said.

"And you want to give him the best opposition you can for him so fans can see for themselves if he's the real deal. He hasn't fought those guys yet but he's got the right dynamic to continue to progress."

Can Golovkin take his promoter with him?

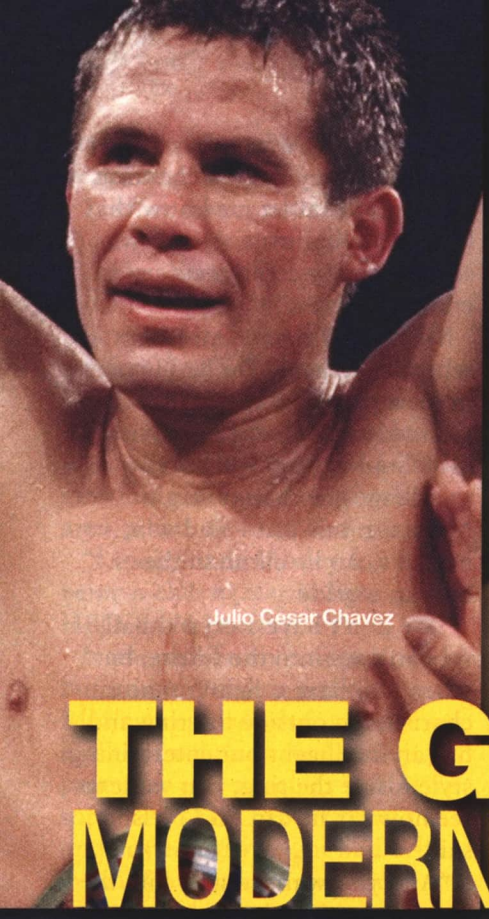
K2 is a promotional powerhouse in Europe thanks to the Klitschko brothers, who fight under its banner and fill large arenas and soccer stadiums while drawing record TV ratings in Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Poland and other European countries. However, in the U.S., K2 is considered a second-tier promotional company.

Loeffler has no doubt that his latest and perhaps most promising client can share his success.

"If Golovkin keeps winning and increasing his popularity," he said, "we'll see it happen pretty quickly." RING

Doug Fischer is Editor of RingTV.com

NAOKI FUKUDA



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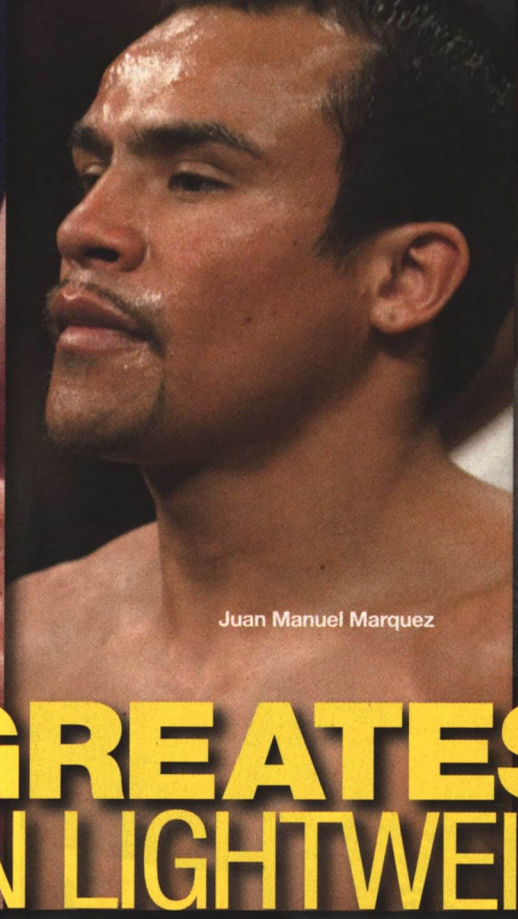

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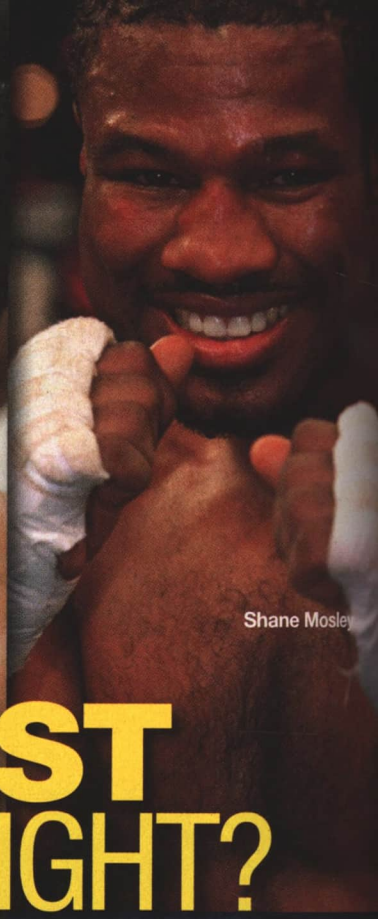
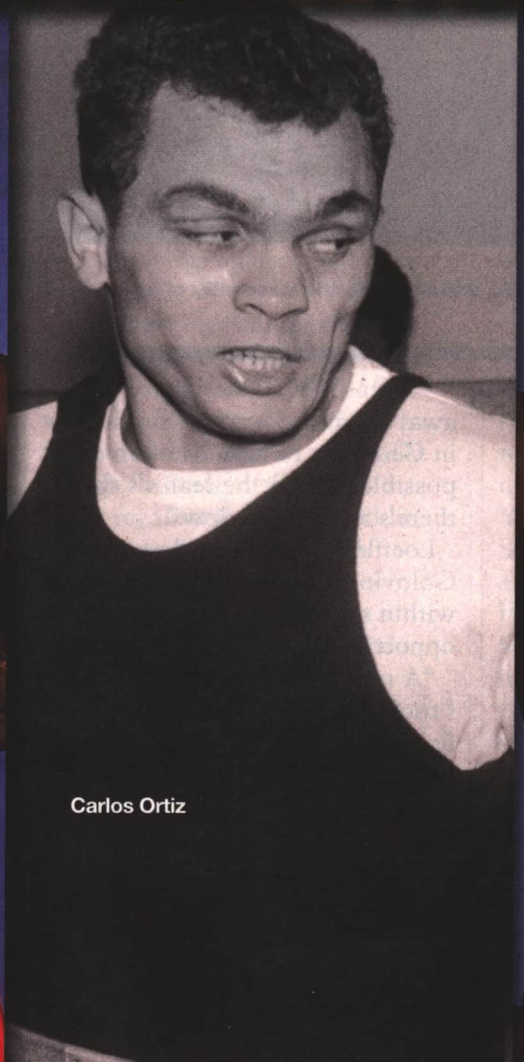


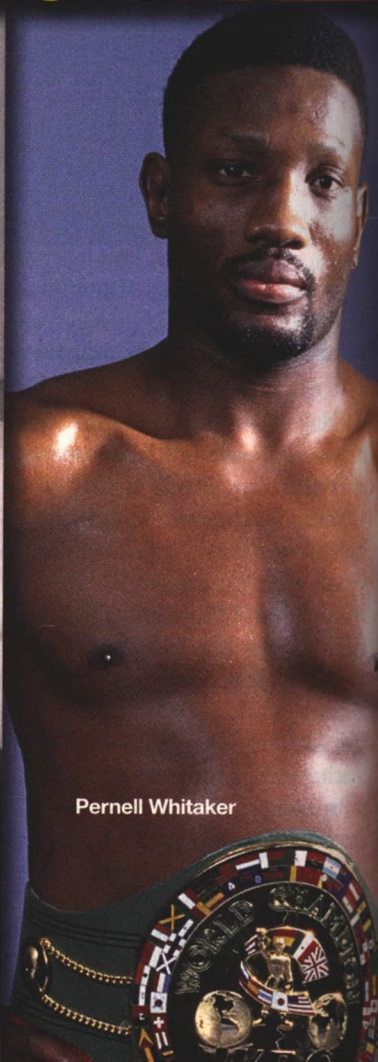
Shane Mosley

THE GREATEST MODERN LIGHTWEIGHT?

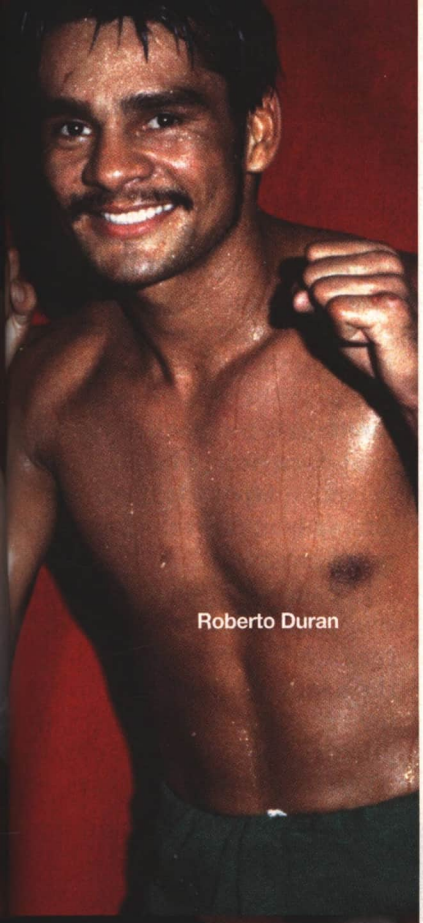
Floyd Mayweather Jr.



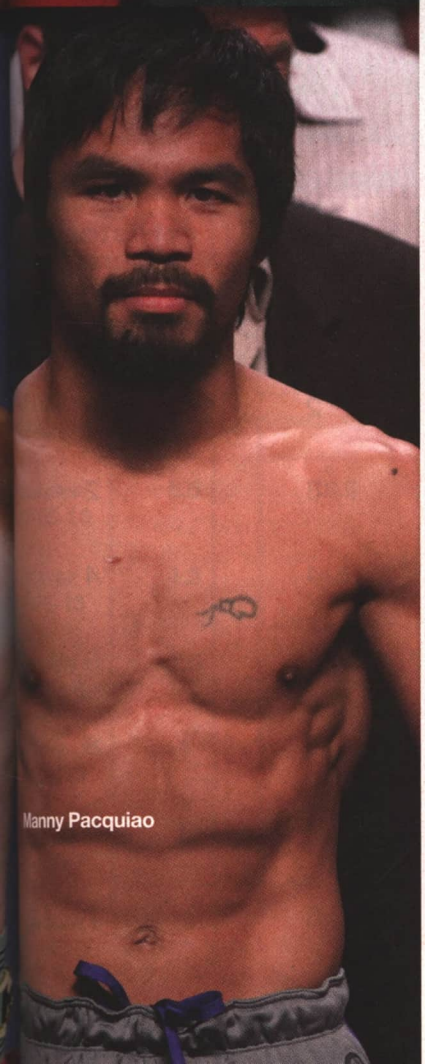
Carlos Ortiz



Pernell Whitaker



Roberto Duran



Manny Pacquiao

ROBERTO DURAN IS THE CLEAR WINNER AMONG EIGHT GREAT 135-POUNDERS IN A POLL OF 26 EXPERTS. FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. AND MANNY PACQUIAO FINISH THIRD AND SEVENTH, RESPECTIVELY.

By **Thomas Hauser**

Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao are scheduled to enter the ring again this spring. When that happens, historical comparisons will fill the air.

Last year, THE RING published the results of a poll in which industry experts predicted the outcome of a fantasy round-robin tournament at 147 pounds. Mayweather and Pacquiao were among the participants. The runaway winner was Sugar Ray Robinson. Ray Leonard finished in second place.

Since then, numerous readers have asked how the experts think Mayweather and Pacquiao would have fared against the lightweight greats.

The answer follows.

The eight fighters chosen for the 135-pound tournament in alphabetical order are: Julio Cesar Chavez, Roberto Duran, Juan Manuel Marquez, Mayweather, Shane Mosley, Carlos Ortiz, Pacquiao and Pernell Whitaker.

Legendary greats Joe Gans, Benny Leonard, Tony Canzoneri and Henry Armstrong weren't included because there's not enough available film footage to properly evaluate them. Ike Williams also fought a bit before the cutoff date.

Issues such as same-day weigh-ins versus day-before weigh-ins might be considered by purists. And there's a difference between going 12 rounds as opposed to 15. But at the end of the day, either a fighter is very good, great or the greatest.

All of the fighters chosen for the tournament also fought at one time or another at weights other than 135 pounds. The electors were asked to assume for purposes of their predictions that each fighter is duplicating his best 135-pound performance.

Twenty-six experts participated in the rankings process. Listed alphabetically, the panelists are:

Trainers: Teddy Atlas, Pat Burns, Naazim Richardson and Don Turner

Media: Al Bernstein, Steve Farhood, Harold Lederman, Paulie Malignaggi, Dan Rafael and Michael Rosenthal

Matchmakers: Eric Bottjer, Don Elbaum, Bobby Goodman, Brad Goodman, Ron Katz, Mike Marchionte, Chris Middendorf, Russell Peltz and Bruce Trampler

Historians: Craig Hamilton, Don McRae, Bob Mee, Clay Moyle, Adam Pollack, Randy Roberts and Mike Tyson

That's right! Mike Tyson. Tyson is a serious historian when it comes to boxing. His input was very much valued.

If each of the eight fighters listed above had fought the other

seven, there would have been 28 fights. And there were 26 panelists. Thus, 728 fights were entered in the database.

Fighters were awarded one point for each predicted victory and a half-point for each predicted draw (too close to call).

A perfect score (each voter predicting that the same fighter would win every one of his fights) would have been 182 points.

"Styles make fights," one elector cautioned. "But it's more than that. You don't know for sure how these guys would have fought each other and what adjustments they would have made during the course of each fight."

That said, the results have been tabulated. The rankings are: Duran, with 164.5 points; Whitaker, 133.5; Mayweather 122.0; Chavez, 102.5; Mosley, 71.0; Ortiz, 53.5; Pacquiao, 48.5; Marquez, 32.5.

Fifteen of the 26 electors ranked Duran No. 1, four ranked Mayweather No. 1, three ranked Whitaker No. 1 and one (a matchmaker) ranked Ortiz No. 1. In addition, two electors had Duran and Whitaker tied for first place, and one elector had Duran, Whitaker and Mayweather in a three-way tie.

Fourteen electors gave Duran a perfect score (that is, winning all seven of his fights). Whitaker and Mayweather received three perfect scores and Ortiz one.

The charts here titled Poll Results A and Poll Results B contain underlying statistical data from the tournament.

The first chart shows that, by and large, the matchmakers, trainers, media representatives and historians saw things similarly. Duran was ranked No. 1 within each group of electors. The trainer and media rankings were identical to the final consensus. Mayweather and Pacquiao fared slightly better among historians than among other groups.

The second chart shows the composite won-lost record for each fighter and how the panelists thought each fighter would fare against the other seven.

Duran was regarded as the

POLL RESULTS A POINT TOTALS, OVERALL RANKING AND RANKING BY GROUPS OF EXPERTS

Name Total Points	Overall Ranking	Matchmaker Ranking	Trainer Ranking	Media Ranking	Historian Ranking
Duran 164.5	1	1	1	1	1
Whitaker 133.5	2	2	2	2	3
Mayweather 122.0	3	3	3	3	2
Chavez 102.5	4	4	4	4	4
Mosley 71.0	5	5	5	5	6
Ortiz 53.5	6	6	6	6	8
Pacquiao 48.5	7	8	7	7	5
Marquez 32.5	8	7	8	8	7

cream of the crop.

"People have forgotten how good Duran was at 135 pounds," one elector noted. "He was an excellent defensive fighter with a savage attack, and he could punch."

Whitaker was the consensus choice for No. 2. "He was a defensive wizard," another elector said. "He punched harder than people gave him credit for. And the fact that he was a southpaw made it even harder to figure him out."

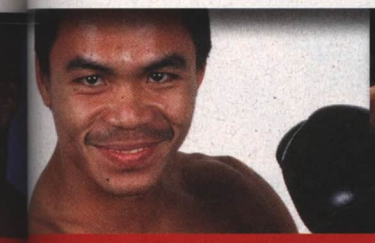
Mayweather ranked third. "I don't question Floyd's skills," said an elector who thought Mayweather would win only three of seven fights in the tournament. "But all the other guys on this list relished the challenge of going in tough. Floyd might not have had the heart to win the fights in this tournament. We don't know how he would have handled the pressure against fighters of this caliber."

Some of the fights in the 135-pound fantasy tournament happened in real life. Mayweather and Pacquiao fought Mosley and Marquez. Whitaker and Chavez did battle. But none of these fights were contested at 135 pounds and, in most instances, one of the combatants was past his prime.

That answers the question of how four electors could pick Mosley over Mayweather at 135 pounds with one more calling the fight too close to call. "They fought at 147 pounds," an elector said. "And Shane was an old man (38 years old) by then. Shane was much better at 135 pounds than he was at the higher weights. And Floyd wasn't as good at 135 as he is at 147."

Meanwhile, it's important to remember that each of the fighters in this tournament merits recognition as a terrific fighter. On a given night, any one of them might have beaten the others. RING

Thomas Hauser can be reached by e-mail at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Straight Writes and Jabs: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing*) was published by the University of Arkansas Press.



Note: The fighters received one point for every victory. Thus, a perfect score for each matchup is 28 because 28 experts took part in the poll.

POLL RESULTS B HEAD-TO-HEAD POINT TOTALS

-	vs. Duran	vs. Whitaker	vs. Mayweather	vs. Chavez	vs. Mosley	vs. Ortiz	vs. Pacquiao	vs. Marquez
Duran 160-13-9	-	18.5	20.5	24.5	24.5	25	26	25.5
Whitaker 127-42-13	7.5	-	15.5	21.5	19.5	22	23	24.5
Mayweather 117-55-10	5.5	10.5	-	15	21.5	21.5	24	24
Chavez 96-73-13	1.5	4.5	11	-	17	20.5	24	24
Mosley 68-108-6	1.5	6.5	4.5	9	-	16	13	20.5
Ortiz 52-127-3	1	4	4.5	5.5	10	-	12	16.5
Pacquiao 45-130-7	0	3	2	2	13	14	-	14.5
Marquez 28-145-9	.5	1.5	2	2	5.5	9.5	11.5	-

BIG EGOS, BIG FIGHTS

FROCH-GROVES AND FURY-CHISORA REMATCHES ARE COMPELLING IN AND OUT OF THE RING

By **Gareth A Davies**

Europe is building up for a fine summer of fights. On May 31, the contest all fans want to see is on with Carl Froch and George Groves scheduled to go at it again. There is a sense of déjà vu here, reminiscent of Nigel Benn vs. Chris Eubank II in October 1993, when 43,000 fans paid to see the two warriors tear into each other again at Old Trafford, home of the Manchester United Football Club. A football stadium is likely to host Froch vs. Groves for the IBF super middleweight belt.

The enmity between the two British 168-pounders of today has captured the public imagination. It's clearly a box office fight, which is why its signing was rolled out live in front of a huge audience on television, with all its dirty linen on show. It is ready-made for a great spectacle.

That kind of animosity will be replicated by Tyson Fury and Dereck Chisora, as they are expected to rumble again, also in a football stadium, early in June. More later on that and Fury's growing understanding of dealing with the media.

MAYWEATHER-KHAN

★ We learned shortly before this issue went to press that Floyd Mayweather Jr. had selected Marcos Maidana over Amir Khan as his opponent on May 3.

Khan has been lingering in limbo since the Mayweather-Canelo Alvarez fight last September. Now that Mayweather has passed him over, there is no telling who the British fighter will meet next in the ring.

Khan was ratified by Showtime as a potential Mayweather opponent because of his speed. There was a little momentum around it, and it gained hype in some corners. Not from this seat, however.

Unfortunately, Khan (or his team) had leaked to some that he had the Mayweather fight. But he didn't. That was almost five months ago. Then, in December, he said he'd already signed his part of the contract to fight Mayweather.

But Mayweather hadn't. Then came the toying, by Mayweather, publicly, and destructively. A mental knife being pushed in and twisted. Ridicule with a Twitter poll orchestrated by Mayweather, pitching Khan against Maidana for the lottery ticket, opened up a wound around Khan.

Of course, no fighter, being who they are and how they think, would turn down a Mayweather fight. But the transparency of a payday for Khan and the tenuous rights to challenge Mayweather were there if you wanted to make the argument. Many have, myself included.

Two points resonate: It would've been Khan's first fight in more than a year and his first fight at welterweight. At

The rematch between George Groves and Carl Froch (right) will be one of the biggest fights in the U.K. in recent memory.

least when Ricky Hatton fought Mayweather, he had momentum, having beaten names. That included Kostya Tszyu. In reality, who of note would Khan beat at the top of the welterweight division right now?

I spoke to Bob Arum, and he was incensed by Mayweather's mockery. He would be, of course. His take was that Khan has been ritually humiliated and made a laughing stock of. Arum labeled Mayweather's actions "a disgrace."

"If a promoter did it, if a Bob Arum or a Frank Warren did it, the press would be all over them. They have allowed Mayweather to get away with this s---. It's terrible," Arum told me. "They have twisted the kid in the wind. Mayweather should be ashamed of himself."

Richard Schaefer, Khan's promoter, was fast to rebuke the octogenarian promoter, reaffirming "a special relationship" with the British fighter, having been with him "through his ups and downs."

FROCH-GROVES

★ So, to Groves and Froch. Or rather, Froch and Groves even though there are times when it feels as if Groves is the antagonist, the driving force in this matchup.

The fight's confirmation in the U.K. was loud and long, and at the risk of the two men settling the feud in a television studio, Froch was beamed in from a satellite truck parked at his home in Nottingham, England.

Groves was in the Sky Sports News studio with promoter Eddie Hearn, the man dealing with the ambition and ego during negotiations for the second fight. Behind the scenes, Froch was adamant all along on the financial split. Groves has signed a confidentiality agreement on his payment.

Then we had the vitriol playing out on live TV. Ten weeks hadn't healed the rift.

Groves has a very shrewd trainer in Paddy Fitzpatrick.

U.K. TOP 10

1. CARL FROCH
2. AMIR KHAN
3. KELL BROOK
4. CARL FRAMPTON
5. RICKY BURNS
6. GEORGE GROVES
7. TYSON FURY
8. SCOTT QUIGG
9. MARTIN MURRAY
10. NATHAN CLEVERLY

Five more (in alphabetical order): James DeGale, Paul Butler, Billy Joe Saunders, Stuart Hall, Dereck Chisora.

Through fights of Feb 16

BIG EGOS, BIG FIGHTS

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I spoke to Bob Arum, and he was incensed by Mayweather's mockery. He would be, of course. His take was that Khan has been ritually humiliated and made a laughing stock of. Arum labeled Mayweather's actions "a disgrace."

"If a promoter did it, if a Bob Arum or a Frank Warren did it, the press would be all over them. They have allowed Mayweather to get away with this s---. It's terrible," Arum told me. "They have twisted the kid in the wind. Mayweather should be ashamed of himself."

Richard Schaefer, Khan's promoter, was fast to rebuke the octogenarian promoter, re-affirming "a special relationship" with the British fighter, having been with him "through his ups and downs."

The rematch between George Groves and Carl Froch (right) will be one of the biggest fights in the U.K. in recent memory.

FROCH-GROVES

★ So, to Groves and Froch. Or rather, Froch and Groves even though there are times when it feels as if Groves is the antagonist, the driving force in this matchup.

The fight's confirmation in the U.K. was loud and long, and at the risk of the two men settling the feud in a television studio, Froch was beamed in from a satellite truck parked at his home in Nottingham, England.

Groves was in the Sky Sports News studio with promoter Eddie Hearn, the man dealing with the ambition and ego during negotiations for the second fight. Behind the scenes, Froch was adamant all along on the financial split. Groves has signed a confidentiality agreement on his payment.

Then we had the vitriol playing out on live TV. Ten weeks hadn't healed the rift.

Groves has a very shrewd trainer in Paddy Fitzpatrick.

U.K. TOP 10

1. CARL FROCH
2. AMIR KHAN
3. KELL BROOK
4. CARL FRAMPTON
5. RICKY BURNS
6. GEORGE GROVES
7. TYSON FURY
8. SCOTT QUIGG
9. MARTIN MURRAY
10. NATHAN CLEVERLY

Five more (in alphabetical order): James DeGale, Paul Butler, Billy Joe Saunders, Stuart Hall, Dereck Chisora.

Through fights of Feb 16

"I don't believe Froch can take any positives from it," said Fitzpatrick. "We can take a lot of positives. George went into the fight believing he could do a lot of things, and he came out of that fight knowing he could do a lot of things."

"Carl has proven himself time and time again. He is a warrior, still is a warrior, has a chin like granite. That fight has taken a lot out of him. You can't go in and take that much punishment and be the same man."

Then, over on the other side, Rob McCracken. The trainer has been with Froch for 13 years.

"Carl has the best part of 3½ months to prepare not to get hit with that shot again early on in the fight," said McCracken. But we're fairly confident that we'll address everything, and it'll be a different Carl Froch for the second fight.

"The end result and the reality of the fight was that Carl was too strong for him. I've been a long time in the sport, and there's absolutely no doubt in my mind that Groves was seconds away from being stopped or knocked out. So my thoughts haven't changed."

Then to Froch. He was asked if his hand was being forced to take this fight by his television paymasters?

"No, not at all. There are a couple of options out there, but this seems to be the option that the British public want and the fight that everybody's talking about," said Froch. "So I'm excited to finally now get it on. And to be honest I'm going to be excited and motivated looking forward to finally shutting George Groves up ... and putting him behind me."

Groves registered his surprise that Froch had agreed but said he had been prepared to force Froch into a corner.

"I've not for one second thought Carl Froch would take this fight," he said. "I went to great lengths to put myself in the best position possible to force Carl Froch into this fight whether ... making sure that there are no other options out there for him and also making myself challenger for the IBF title so he'd have to vacate or be stripped if he didn't want to fight me."

Froch accused Groves of "a lot of whinging (whining) and moaning" to get to the IBF mandatory position.

"I've given the British public what they wanted for years and years and years, and I'm not going to stop doing it now. It's the biggest fight out there for me, admittedly, it's what everybody wants to see, so I'm just really, really excited."

Groves differs, of course. "I have righted the wrong. I was mandatory the first time round. The fight finished incorrectly, and the IBF agreed with me," he said.

Groves is clearly smart, the streetwise Londoner accusing Froch of contradicting himself, and the champion has at times done exactly that. "Howard Foster, who was the referee, made a mistake," said Groves. "That's why he's resigned from the IBF, and that's why the IBF, who are presented with a lot of cases, very rarely force a rematch."

Promoter Eddie Hearn is licking his lips. "The fact is, these two don't like each other, and I don't think they're doing a very good job of hiding that. Big British domestic fights like this for two world titles don't come around very often, and actually they are two intelligent guys that do banter well, and they don't particularly like each other. The buildup is going to be as fantastic as it was last time. And the fight itself could be even better. And to be honest, the last was one of the best I've ever seen.

"It would have been a travesty if it hadn't happened. It could be the biggest fight in British boxing history."

Promoter speak, of course.

What about 2007, when the two top super middleweights in the world met in Cardiff and 50,000 fans were treated to a great night when Joe Calzaghe changed the pattern of the fight to beat Mikkel Kessler, prompting fans to pour out onto the streets of the capital of Wales deliriously happy?

"Let the public debate begin, let the excitement begin, and let the talk begin because this is going to be roller-coaster from start to finish," said ringmaster Hearn. "It was difficult. Two egos to deal with. But it's on."

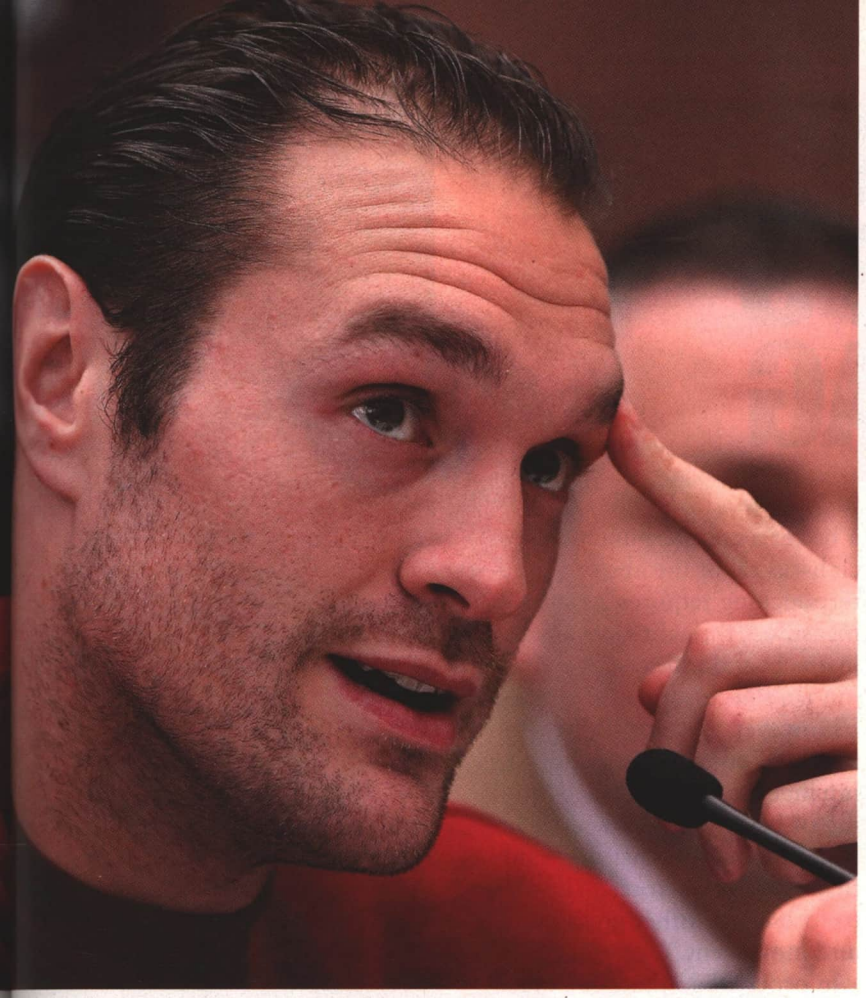
And we can't wait. It will gross well over $20 million, and the two warriors will be richly rewarded.

TYSON FURY

★ Fury is developing an understanding of what the media needs. He is half truth, half braggadocio. And you can't accuse him of not taking risks or not trying to create some excitement.

Even his Twitter rants, tasteless as they can be – he's been fined by the British Boxing Board on a couple of occasions – have created a following for him. And his consistent calling out of UFC heavyweight champions has done him no harm, either.

Once he'd got Joey Abell out of the way at the erstwhile 2012 Olympic Park venue The Copper Box in February, the platitudes toward Chisora ceased. Chisora suddenly became "the bum I've already beaten." Instead, Fury had stories of conquering



Tyson Fury can be crude with his words but he has become an expert at getting attention.

Wladimir Klitschko – mentally, he reckoned – by once outlasting him in a sauna at the world champion's Austrian training camp. Highly amusing. Great words for the writers. And it all helps when you are 6 feet 9 inches tall and trying to stand out from the crowd of prospects.

Technically, of course, you could pick holes in Fury all night long. And Klitschko would do that with that great jab of his, but that doesn't stop Fury having his view.

"Wladimir is what you call a super champion," he said. "He's one special athlete. He keeps on top of his game. He needs to be appreciated, not depreciated. But he's never fought anyone like me. Listen, people want rid of him because they can't beat him. But give me the shot, and I'll show you how it's done. You can't discredit what the man's done. He's a robot and people say he's a stiff, and he's not exciting, but the man's got brains.

"He specializes in sparring people, beating them up when they're young and then bringing them over and knocking them out when they're men. Well, he hasn't sparred me or done anything to me when I was young. And I've already broke him down mentally to his face."

Incredible self-belief.

"I don't think he'll ever face me, honestly," said Fury.

I'm not so sure. Fury could be made for Klitschko's long jab. Let's hope it really does come to fruition.

DUKE MCKENZIE

★ Duke McKenzie was a co-host on my monthly radio show "Fight Club" on TalkSPORT recently – THE RING Magazine Editor Michael Rosenthal is a regular and friend of the show – and it brought to the fore that McKenzie has done so much in the sport.

In recent years, he has been a ringside analyst, notably on BBC Radio, and various mainstream television stations – always measured, always thoughtful, talking from experience and with great wisdom. A very cool customer.

But it is my view, and it really only came into focus as we talked about boxing in general, and his life and career, that his achievements and accomplishments have been forgotten far too quickly.

McKenzie is the only Briton to win world titles in three weight divisions: He won the IBF flyweight title on Oct. 5, 1988, with an 11th round knockout over Rolando Bohol; on June 30, 1991, he became a world champion for a second time, winning the WBO bantamweight title with a 12-round decision over Gaby Canizales; and on Oct. 15, 1992, after moving up to junior featherweigtht, he beat Jesse Benavides after 12 rounds for the WBO strap.

McKenzie is now 50. It's time to recognize him as a Hall of Famer. Consider this my letter putting him forward to the panel for the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y. McKenzie deserves a place there. Three-time world champion, three weights, record 39-7.

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for *The Telegraph*, London.

SCOTT HEAVEY/GETTY IMAGES

BEST OF DOUGIE'S MAILBAG

RINGTV.COM EDITOR'S POPULAR COLUMN NOW APPEARS IN THE RING MAGAZINE

By **Doug Fischer**

Since 2001, RingTV.com Editor Doug Fischer has held an ongoing dialog – which occasionally becomes heated debate – with boxing fans from around the world in "Dougie's Mailbag."

Beginning this year, the editors of THE RING are periodically compiling excerpts from Fischer's online column from previous months to appear in the printed edition. The following excerpts are from the Feb. 7, 10, 14 and 17 editions of the Monday and Friday mailbag.

EMIL MATHIASEN, of Denmark, said he has always been fascinated and puzzled by what makes a boxer a good counterpuncher. He asked Fischer if counterpunching ability is the product of instincts, reflexes, patience and speed, or the ability to foresee an opponent's punches and movement?

DOUGIE'S reply: The answer to your question about what makes a boxer a counterpunching specialist is all of the above. Counterpunching requires patience, measured, thought-out moves, instincts and reflexes. Speed helps, but isn't necessary.

However, the most important aspect of counterpunching is intelligence and an understanding of boxing and how different styles mesh. You basically said this when you wrote: "The ability to foresee the other guy's punches and movement."

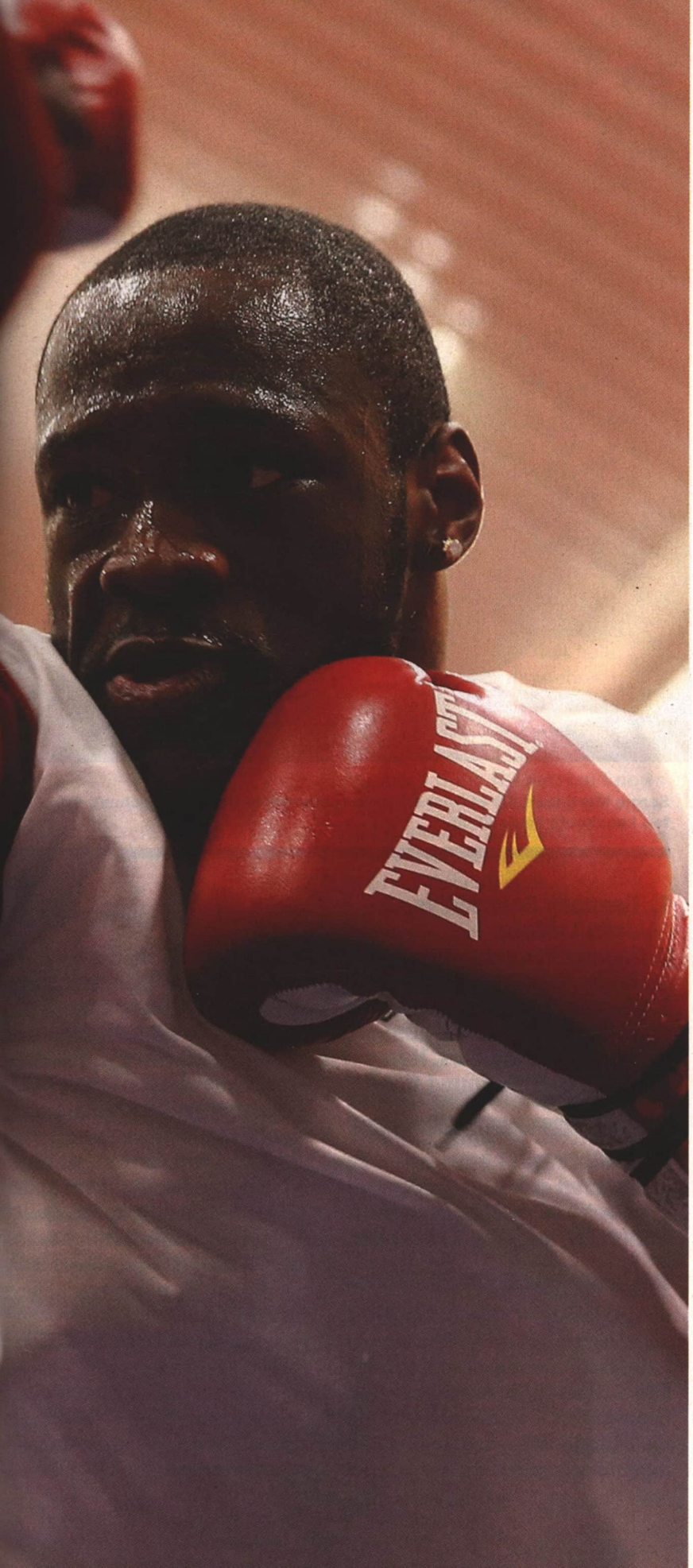
In order to do that, one must be smart and know what to expect from particular styles and ring personalities.

If you look at all the best active counterpunchers in the game – Floyd Mayweather Jr., Juan Manuel Marquez, Andre Ward, Tim Bradley, Mikey Garcia, Bernard Hopkins – they all have one thing in common: They're smart! They are very clear thinkers in the ring (and often outside of it).

Bart Plaatje, from Groningen, Netherlands, said he noticed similarities in the styles of former middleweight champ Marvin Hagler and current WBA titleholder Gennady Golovkin – particularly their footwork and ability to slip punches – after watching their fights on YouTube. Bart asked if Fischer sees the similarities and if he thinks Golovkin can take a punch like Hagler.

Golovkin takes a good shot. He proved that in the Curtis Stevens fight. If GGG can take a punch

Doug Fischer believes heavyweight knockout artist Deontay Wilder has the potential to capture the imagination of casual sports fans.



like Hagler, who had one of the best beards of all time, he's going to be very hard to beat, but we won't know until he faces bigger and harder-hitting foes.

I think there are some style similarities between the prime Hagler and Golovkin. They are both methodical, stalking technicians who can cut the ring off or take a back step if need be. Both also block and parry well, as you noted. In terms of athleticism, both are very strong and durable with world-class power. And in terms of skill and conditioning, both are accurate and economical punchers with good timing and stamina. It remains to be seen if Golovkin's will is as strong as Hagler's was. You might be right about Golovkin having slightly heavier hands, but Hagler was a bit quicker with crisper combos and better head and upper-body movement. Hagler also used feints more.

Frank Luback, from Brooklyn, N.Y., asked if Deontay Wilder can create widespread mainstream interest in the sport if he keeps his KO streak alive and wins a heavyweight title (if not THE undisputed championship). Frank also asked Fischer for his top five knockouts and top five fights of this century (since 2000).

DOUGIE'S reply: My top five fights since 2000 are:

1. Diego Corrales-Jose Luis Castillo I
2. Israel Vazquez-Rafael Marquez III
3. Erik Morales-Marco Antonio Barrera I
4. Arturo Gatti-Micky Ward I
5. Lamon Brewster-Wladimir Klitschko I

BEST OF DOUGIE'S MAILBAG

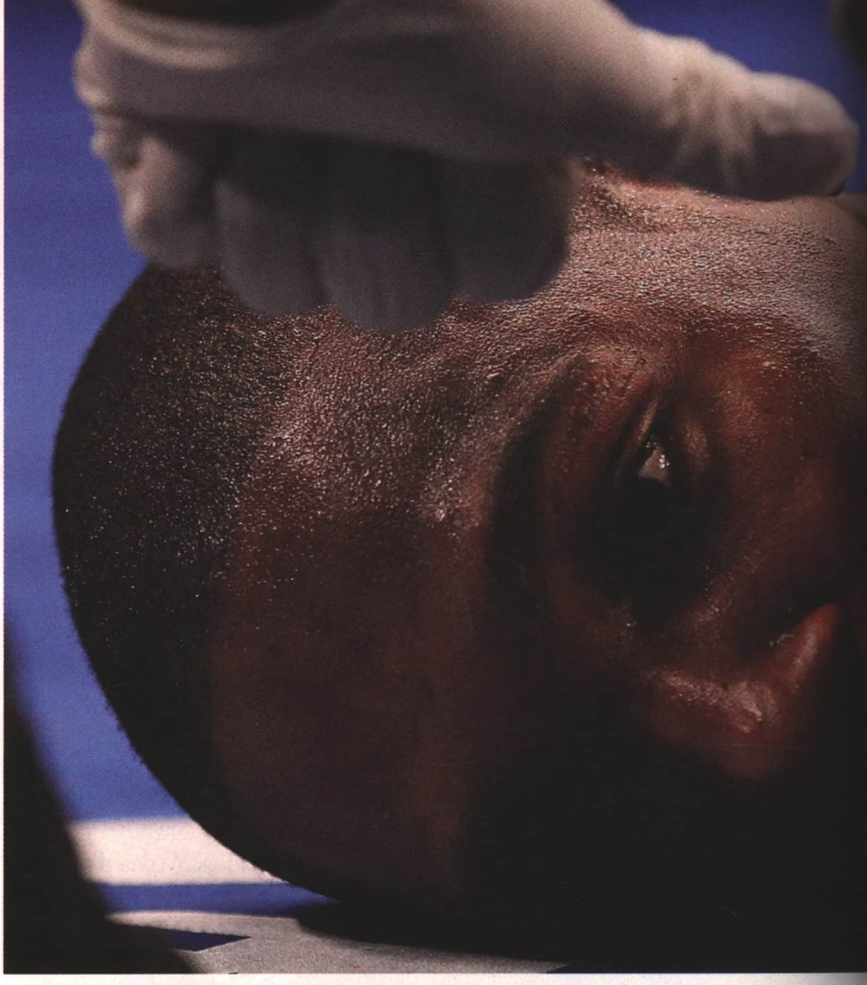
My top five KOs since 2000:

1. Antonio Tarver-Roy Jones Jr. II
2. Sergio Martinez-Paul Williams II
3. Manny Pacquiao-Ricky Hatton
4. Felix Trinidad-William Joppy
5. Lennox Lewis-Hasim Rahman II

I'm not 100 percent sure that Wilder has the ability to win a major title or recognition as THE heavyweight champion, but if he does, I have no doubt that the "Bronze Bomber" will command the attention of the general sports media and captivate the imagination of casual fans. He has the explosive style and bombastic-but-likable personality that makes people stop and watch him fight.

If Wilder (who was scheduled to face veteran Malik Scott at press time) can beat the winner of the Chris Arreola-Bermane Stiverne rematch (which is for the vacant WBC title) he'll make believers of the boxing media and hardcore fans. That's a good launching point to crossover success. Bottom line: I don't think the U.S. public is ready to give up on the idea of an American heavyweight champ.

Jon M., of Grand Rapids, Mich., asked Fischer to give his two cents on four "mythical matcups" – fantasy contests between notable boxers from different eras:



Sergio Martinez's KO of Paul Williams (pictured) is No. 2 on Fischer's list of the top knockouts since 2000.

1. **Gennady Golovkin vs. Jake LaMotta**
2. **Manny Pacquiao vs. Emile Griffith**
3. **James Toney vs. Tommy Hearns (at 160 pounds)**
4. **Stanley Ketchel vs. Harry Greb (in a 25-round fight)**

DOUGIE'S reply: These are excellent mythical matchups you provided (I can't get enough of 'em!):

1. GGG vs. LaMotta – LaMotta by decision in a competitive and very entertaining fight. LaMotta had the toughness and all-time great chin to withstand Golovkin's vaunted power and the underrated boxing ability to outpoint the relentless Kazakhstani over the distance.

2. PacMan vs Griffith – Griffith by decision in a fight that starts off hot but simmers down once the Virgin Islands-born New Yorker adjusts to Pacquiao's speed and proceeds to time and tie up the Filipino icon during the second half of the bout.

3. Toney vs. Hearns (at 160) – The Hitman by close decision. Toney's awesome chin holds out against Hearn's awesome power, and his counterpunching ability makes it interesting, but Tommy still outjabs and outpoints Toney from a distance.

4. Ketchel vs. Greb – Greb by decision. The Pittsburgh Windmill's chin withstands the best shots

from Ketchel as he outworks his fellow middleweight legend over the distance of a grueling fight.

Colm "Cogs" McClean, of Belfast, Ireland, doubts that George Groves has a world-class chin despite the premature stoppage in his controversial loss to Carl Froch last year. He believes the British super middleweight standout should be "careful of what he wishes for" with his rematch against Froch and asked Fischer's opinion on the anticipated May 31 return bout.

DOUGIE'S reply: I'm thinking the same thing, Cogs.

There's no denying that Groves had badly hurt Froch at the end of the first round and was in firm command of the fight through at least six or seven rounds, but "Saint George" has been talking like he wasn't hurt at all in the ninth or in the least bit of trouble before the referee botched matters, and that simply isn't true. Froch started working his way back into the fight in the fifth round, and though I might be mistaken, I thought Groves was beginning to wear down after the seventh round. The eighth round looked as if it could have been a turning point for Froch. Like you said, we'll never know for sure because the ref robbed both fighters of earning a clear-cut victory with his premature stoppage, by my hunch is that Froch was going to drown the young upstart in the championship rounds.

And my hunch is that he'll get it done – legitimately – in the rematch.

Groves will still be extremely hard for Froch to draw a bead on, but I think the veteran knows what to expect from the 25-year-old Londoner this time, and I believe that he will be prepared for that difficult style.

I don't think Froch respected Groves going into their first bout, and I don't think he was motivated for it. Now he has a reason to be motivated and that could make all the difference.

John, a longtime boxing observer, asked Fischer who he thought would win between heavyweight Hall of Famers Joe Louis and Sonny Liston.

DOUGIE'S reply: Late boxing historian Hank Kaplan once told me that Liston was the best heavyweight he ever saw. He rated the prime version of Liston who fought from late 1958 through 1962 over Louis and Muhammad Ali. With Kaplan's words in mind, I'll attempt to answer this fascinating mythical matchup.

It should be noted that Liston idolized Louis and tried to emulate much of the Brown Bomber's vaunted technique. However, Liston was naturally bigger, arguably stronger and definitely rangier than Louis. Liston was also a more fluid boxer than his boxing hero.

Many boxing fans think of Liston as the flat-footed stalker that Cassius Clay/Muhammad Ali made him look like in '64 and '65, but the Arkansas native was a versatile boxer who made use of feints and a world-class jab and had excellent head- and upper-body movement, underrated footwork and mobility and counterpunching ability.

However, Louis had impeccable fundamentals and near-perfect punching technique to go with his awesome power and accuracy. I think Louis is the best combination puncher ever to grace the heavyweight division. Plus, his jab was just as good as Liston's. However, Liston's greater reach and crafty timing would have given Louis a hard time. I can see Liston troubling Louis the way Jersey Joe Walcott did with footwork and potshots. But Liston couldn't move as well as Walcott, and he wasn't as sneaky and unorthodox as Jersey Joe was. Plus, he didn't have a busy counter right like Walcott and Max Schmeling. If he did, I'd say Liston beats Louis (even the prime version). Although Liston had a very good right cross, it wasn't his primary weapon, and in fact, he used it sparingly.

I think Louis and Liston would rock and drop each other early in a great fight, but Louis' accurate combinations, greater activity and superior stamina would allow him to win a very close decision.

Bruising is the result of blood vessels beneath the skin being torn or ruptured by blows to the body.

'SWEET SCIENCE OF BRUISING'

BLACK AND BLUE ARE THE COLORS OF BOXING

By **Scott LaFee**

Boxing has long been known as the "sweet science," a descriptor commonly ascribed to A.J. Liebling, the famed New Yorker writer who published a collection of boxing articles with that title in 1956. In 2002, *Sports Illustrated* declared Liebling's The Sweet Science to be "the greatest sports book of all time."

But Liebling was in fact paying tribute to an earlier sportswriter, Pierce Egan, a British journalist in the early 1800s who devoted much of his career to chronicling the emerging (and at the time outlawed) sport of boxing, notably the bare-knuckled kind.

Egan, too, compiled a collection of his work, a multi-volume series called *Boxiana*. But more to the point, it was Egan who coined the term "the sweet science." Or more accurately, "the sweet science of bruising."

Boxers, mixed martial artists and anybody else routinely pummeled as part of their job are intimately familiar with bruising, which is the result of blood vessels beneath the skin being torn or ruptured by blows to the body. A bruise is simply blood that has visibly leaked out into the surrounding tissues.

Bruises come in three categories:

- Subcutaneous, which are bruises in which the damage is limited to the immediate tissues under the skin. These

are the most common type of bruises, the least painful and the quickest to heal.

- Intramuscular bruising occurs when blood vessels in muscle are damaged. Such bruises are the result of more powerful impacts. They are more painful and take longer to disappear.
- And finally, there are periosteal bruises that involve damage to the body's deepest tissues, including bone. They're among the most painful and, if the blow is strong enough, may be compounded by actual fracturing of the bone.

By and large, says Joe Estwanik, an orthopedic surgeon and president of the Association of Ringside Physicians, bruising isn't likely to affect a boxing match. For one thing, it's usually not immediately felt or apparent during a fight. And second, a boxer's fitness, training and the adrenaline rush of the moment will tend to render the injury meaningless.

With perhaps one exception: Bruising injuries that occur in places where the consequences may diminish a boxer's ability to fight or defend himself. "Bruises can alert a physician to a possible deeper problem, such as a fracture," said Estwanik. Or they can be a harbinger of worse things.

This is sometimes the case with blows to the face and around the eyes. A well-delivered punch to, say, the zygomatic (cheek) bone can result in the thin layer of skin there being crushed between a glove and the boxer's skull. Blood immediately begins to leak out, triggering the body's first stage of healing - inflammation to stop the bleeding. The result is swelling that may quickly impinge upon the boxer's ability to see. In such cases, said Estwanik, a ringside physician may stop the fight because the boxer is in no position to safely continue.

"I've attended fights where a blow has opened up a really nasty, ugly-looking cut on the top of the head," said Estwanik, "but the swelling and blood flow were such that the fighter could still box effectively. On the other hand, I've had boxers suffer a bruise in just the wrong place, right above the eye. It didn't look bad, but the swelling meant they couldn't really see out of that eye anymore. They couldn't effectively defend themselves, and so I've called the fight."

For fighters, bruising provides at least one helpful aspect not seen in other injuries: A color-coded timetable for healing, though skin color obviously affects visibility.

The first discoloring signs of bruising typically appear one to three days after the original injury. The deeper the tissue damage, the longer it takes for blood seepage to reach subcutaneous skin layers and visibility. Very deep bruising may never become obvious.

Initially, bruises tend to be reddish, reflecting hemoglobin in the blood. Hemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells that transports oxygen. It contains iron, which gives blood its crimson hue.

Twenty-four hours later, the typical bruise is beginning to turn blue as the oxygen is depleted. Two to four days later, the red blood cells degrade and release the hemoglobin, which then bonds with an iron-storing compound called hemosiderin to produce a bluish-black color.

At five to seven days, green appears, the result of bilverdin,

The face of former heavyweight John Ruiz looks like that of most fighters after a good scrap.

a pigment associated with the cellular decay process. Seven to 10 days later, bruises are yellow due to bilirubin, another cellular pigment.

Finally, two to four weeks later, the bruise has disappeared.

People bruise differently for different reasons.

Age is a factor. The older you are, the thinner and more fragile the walls of your blood vessels and the more vulnerable they are to being damaged.

Body composition is a factor. More muscle (or even fat) provides added protection against deep bruising, particularly the kind that involves bone.

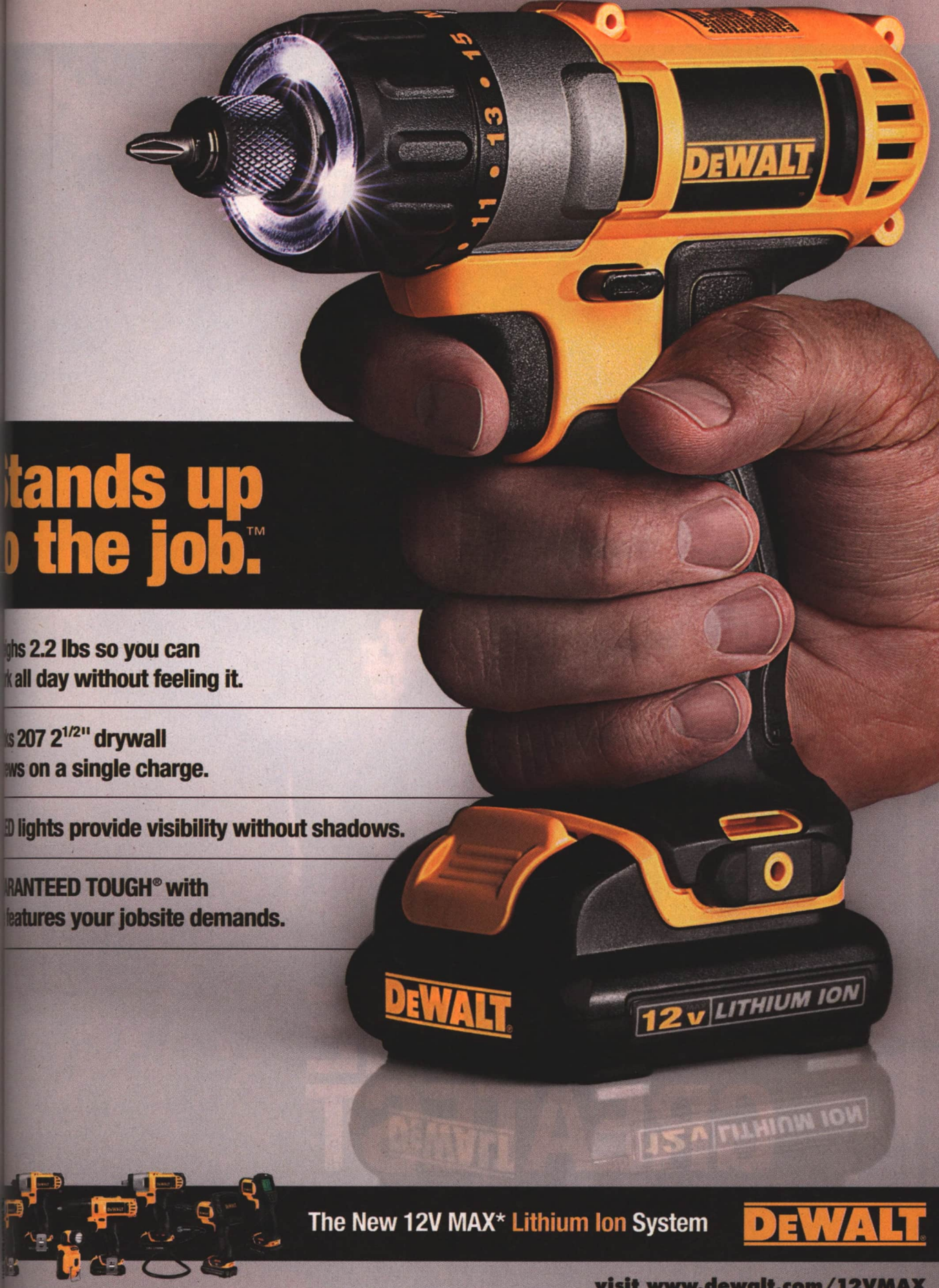
Medical conditions, such as an underlying liver or kidney disease that involve thinner-than-normal blood, are problematic, said Estwanik, though such folks aren't likely to be active boxers. Some medications, such as corticosteroids and aspirin, thin the blood, too.

And finally, a poor diet can exacerbate the problem by making it harder for the body to resist injury or recover from it.

Is it possible to train one's body not to bruise? Generally speaking, no. Hit someone hard enough and they will bruise. In contact sports, bruising is part and parcel. It's largely ignored until it measurably affects training or performance. A boxer with bruises is, well, a boxer.

Still, Estwanik says he's seen fighters who, for reasons he can't explain, are able to inflict or endure blows that would leave ordinary people painfully and obviously black-and-blue. Yet, they display no visible signs of damage.

"I've seen fighters, particularly in Muay Thai (a martial arts sport), who have toughened themselves against bruising. Repetitive training does seem to have some effect. I can't really explain it. Science can't explain everything."



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THE GREATEST

LUCIA RIJKER DESERVES RECOGNITION AS THE BEST FEMALE BOXER EVER

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

Lucia Rijker (pictured with trainer Freddie Roach) proved her mettle even though she never had a defining fight.

There are no quick responses from Lucia Rijker, no flippant answers to any questions. She takes it all in, seemingly analyzing and breaking down everything – just as she did to all 17 of her opponents over the course of a brilliant pro boxing career that ran from 1996 to 2004.

But when asked specifically whether it bothers her that, despite her greatness, she never had that mega-fight to define who she was in the ring, she pauses a little longer than usual.

"Absolutely," she said. "Absolutely. There's not much I can say about it, but of course I've pondered and reflected on it for many, many hours, wondering why things happen the way they happen."

She pauses again before breaking the tension with a laugh.

"At least it was scheduled," she said, 'it' being a July 2005 showdown with fellow star Christy Martin that would have been the biggest female fight ever in terms of both media attention and significance. Ten days before the fight, though, Rijker ruptured her Achilles tendon. She never fought again.

Yet this isn't a story with a horrific ending, one of those "see what boxing can do to you" pieces. Rijker was always going to land on her feet. Anything else would have been impossible given who she is. Blessed with athleticism, smarts, looks, determination and charisma, the native of Amsterdam was always the total package in and out of the ring. Nothing has changed for her at 46.

Today she's an author, motivational speaker and has also been impressive as a trainer, most recently picking up THE RING's 2013 Trainer of the Year award for leading Diana Prazak to a world championship. Yet for Rijker, it was Prazak's victory over previously unbeaten Frida Wallberg last June that allowed her to put her own boxing career into perspective.

Not even her role in the critically acclaimed movie *Million Dollar Baby*, as the fighter who maliciously delivered the punch that left Hillary Swank's character paralyzed with a broken neck, prepared her for reality.

"When I saw what Diana did to her opponent, I saw the dangers to the sport that I would never, ever thought could happen to me," said Rijker, who watched joy turned into horror as Wallberg fell into a coma after the bout. (Wallberg is recovering from her injuries in her native Sweden.) "You don't think that something like that could happen. And then it happened to me as a trainer, and let me tell you, after the ambulance came and they carried Frida out of the ring and when we heard that she was in a coma and that she had a stroke, I prayed until 5:30 in the morning, and I cried my eyes out. That's the last thing you want to do to another individual. And here I am on the sideline. I'm just a coach coaching a fighter to win, not to hurt another person for life. When I was getting ready for that fight with [Martin], I was never thinking, 'what if I hurt this woman?' You don't think about it."

Now she does.

"I remember at one point, I had a bone to pick with Christy, and then I thought, 'God knows what could have happened in that fight.' I was a true warrior. I was not going to let a person walk this planet unpunished that would insult me like that. It was really personal," she said.

Rijker wasn't a person with whom you wanted to exchange punches if she liked you. If she

International Boxing Hall of Fame officials and voters should take a close look at Rijker's career.

didn't, well, that was a scary proposition. And as good as Martin was, she probably wouldn't have had a chance against Rijker, whose skills and power were on a different level from any of her peers. That's why she had so much trouble getting big fights while Martin and Mia St. John reaped the benefits of appearing on Don King and Top Rank pay-per-view cards, respectively, and Laila Ali turned into an industry of her own.

As for Rijker, she learned to be content with knowing that she was the best of her era. And in October of 2009, there was recognition of that fact when she became the first woman inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame. That Hall isn't as widely known as the International Boxing Hall of Fame, but Rijker truly appreciated the recognition.

"I was so honored," she recalled. "To me, that was an award for many, many years of struggle, of rejection, and it was like my Academy Award. It sounds strange, but being one of the first women, it was an honor because I know how hard it is to box, and the life of a fighter is a hard life. And to be honored in a discipline I love more than anything is really a good feeling."

She deserves that feeling again. The International Boxing Hall of Fame has inducted one female member, renowned promoter Aileen Eaton, but no female fighters. They're not even on the ballot, which often includes several head-scratching male candidates. Rijker admits that if you asked her about such matters years ago, when she had the gloves on, it would have been far from her list of priorities. But today, her mindset has changed a bit.

"When I was a fighter, I always trained," she said. "Even when I couldn't get a fight, I continued to train as if I had a fight next month. I lived off the bare minimum, I lived like a monk. I could barely support myself, but I didn't give up on my dream. [When I receive an award] I can show people that it's OK to follow your dream, no matter what people say. No matter if the world believes in you or not, and no matter if you can eat off what you do or not. But if you're passionate in your heart for something, and you want to become a master at it, you've got to stick with it, and it will be rewarded, whether it's in an award, or being recognized.

"When you get older, those things matter. When I was active, I could care less about an award. Whether people would acknowledge it or not, I wanted to be the best, and the best meant that I knocked everybody out, and that was it. When you retire, and people remember the work you did as a trailblazer, it inspires you to continue to do things you believe in that other people might not see yet."

The talent level in women's boxing worldwide is probably as high as it's ever been, leading many to believe that a great fighter can emerge and take the sport to the mainstream once again.

But at the moment it's obvious that Lucia Rijker is the best female boxer who ever lived. You won't hear that coming out of her mouth, though.

"I always leave it up to the people," she said. "I never said about myself, 'I'm the greatest, I'm the best.' I let the people choose, and I let my hands speak. If people want to say that, I'd be honored. But I'd never say, 'yeah, I deserve that.' That's not the person that I am. I always had humility as a fighter, and I spoke with my actions, and I will continue to do so." RING

POUND FOR POUND

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS, Norway
24-0 (7 KOs)
Welterweight

2. ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS, France
27-3 (23 KOs)
Junior middleweight

3. JELENA MRDJENOVICH, Canada
31-9-1 (16 KOS)
Featherweight

4. AVA KNIGHT, U.S.
12-2-3 (5 KOs)
Junior flyweight

5. YESICA YOLANDA BOPP, Argentina
26-1 (12 KOs),
Junior flyweight

6. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS, Argentina
18-0 (9 KOs)
Lightweight

7. JESSICA CHAVEZ, Mexico
19-3-3 (4 KOs)
Junior flyweight

8. MELISSA HERNANDEZ, U.S.
18-5-3 (6 KOs)
Featherweight

9. DIANA PRAZAK, Australia
12-2 (8 KOs)
Junior lightweight

10. MARCELA ELIANA ACUNA, Argentina
40-6-1 (17 KOs)
Junior featherweight

Through fights of Feb. 16

GET READY FOR CAM F. AWESOME

THE SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT FORMERLY KNOWN AS **LENROY THOMPSON** HAS STARTED FRESH AFTER RETURNING FROM A ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION

By **Joseph Santoliquito**

Cam F. Awesome no longer feels compelled to slide unnoticed through the shadows. He no longer waits until late at night to go shopping so no one will see him. He longer relies on alcohol to get by.

USA Boxing's super heavyweight has been reborn at 25. And part of that rebirth is a new outlook, a new approach and a new name.

The fighter formerly known as Lenroy Thompson began a downward spiral when he was kicked off the 2012 U.S. Olympic team for failing to report his whereabouts to the United States Anti-Doping Agency three times in an 18-month span. As a result, he was suspended from the sport for one year.

Soon afterward he slipped into depression – where he wallowed for a time – before fighting his way out.

"That wasn't me, and that's not me," said Awesome, who legally changed his name on Feb. 16, 2013. "After I was suspended and removed from the Olympic team, I would say that was hitting rock bottom for me. I was winning my fights internationally, and what happened to me was my fault."

What happened to Awesome was he failed to meet the deadline to file his paperwork, he said.

"People see in blaring headlines, 'He failed to meet drug-testing requirements,' and it's like I failed a drug test," he said. "That wasn't the case at all. I take full responsibility for what happened to me. But I didn't fail a drug test. I failed to file the paperwork, which was nothing but out-and-out negligence on my part. I was doing a lot of traveling; I had a lot of things on my mind. That was pretty tough for me."

Awesome likes to say what's unfolding now is a Hollywood story coming true for him. In 2013, he became a three-time USA Boxing national champion, a three-time National Golden Gloves champion, and won the super heavyweight class at the Cheo Aponte, Olympic Cup and Makar Mazai Memorial tournaments.

He has come a long way, although he still has more to do and plenty more to prove.

Part of that process was scaling back down to his fighting weight of around 230 pounds. After he was booted off the U.S. team, he ballooned to close to 280 pounds in part because of the alcohol consumption.

"All I did was drink for a while and I went up to 280 in a matter of months," Awesome said. "It was a scary time for me. I drank all day, and I would go grocery shopping late at night so no one would see me. Yea, I was embarrassed to be [Lenroy Thompson]. But I had to get myself together and became a vegan. I got down to 197 pounds and then began to put muscle back on."

Awesome looks back on his unfortunate experience as a life lesson. He now focuses on the future.

"Everything happens for a reason, and I focus on what I have to do next," he said. "I go to tournaments, and I go to fights, I stay in my hotel room. I fight and go back to my room. I don't try to party, I don't try to socialize with anyone. I try to help everyone around me. What happened to me forced me to grow up. I think I learned that I can bounce back from anything.

"I've become a whole different person. I appreciate what I have more now. Before, I'd complain if the air conditioning wasn't cold enough."

Awesome is a gold medal hopeful for the 2016 Olympics in Brazil. And he says he might never turn pro. He's comfortable with who he is.

"I was born in 1988, but after I changed my name, I consider ... Feb. 16 my new birthday" Awesome said. "I would say that I'm a year old now."

A new beginning.

BY NORM FRAUENHEIM

MIKEY GARCIA UD 12 JUAN CARLOS BURGOS

Date: Jan. 25
Site: The Theater at Madison Square Garden, New York City
Division: Junior lightweight (for Garcia's WBO title)
Weights: Garcia 129.2 pounds; Burgos 129.0
RING rating (going into the fight): Garcia No. 2; Burgos No. 5
Network: HBO

★ It was business as usual for Mikey Garcia. Tactical know-how, footwork, timing, precise counters and accuracy were all there in a fighter ticketed for stardom.

Mikey Garcia (right) scored a workmanlike victory over Juan Carlos Burgos on Jan. 25.

Garcia did nothing to damage a claim on pound-for-pound credentials in beating a competent Burgos with a decision as predictable as it was one-sided.

Garcia promoter Bob Arum predicts he will soon join an elite class that includes Floyd Mayweather Jr., Manny Pacquiao, Andre Ward and Tim Bradley.

He's on the fast track. Arum makes it sound as if anything is possible, even a shot at Pacquiao later in 2014. But suddenly there's a question about whether Garcia can get there. Charisma is a so-called intangible. It's hard to define. In the star-making game, however, it's mandatory. Forget for the moment that Garcia remains unbeaten. In the charisma category, he remains an unknown.

Garcia's resume is the squeaky-clean portrayal of a good citizen. Sometimes he wears a white hat into the ring. He's a graduate of the Ventura County Police Reserve Academy in Southern California.

"He doesn't trash talk," Arum said at the pre-fight news conference. "He's a cop, so he takes out the trash."

It's anybody's guess as to whether potential pay-per-view customers will warm up to a fighter who only promises to be a consummate pro. It seems to be working for Bradley, who turned outrage at him for his controversial decision over Pacquiao into genuine appreciation.

But for now, Garcia (34-0, 28 KOs) can only do what he does best, which is to fight with seamless efficiency that Burgos (30-2-2, 20 KOs) and 33 others could not overcome.

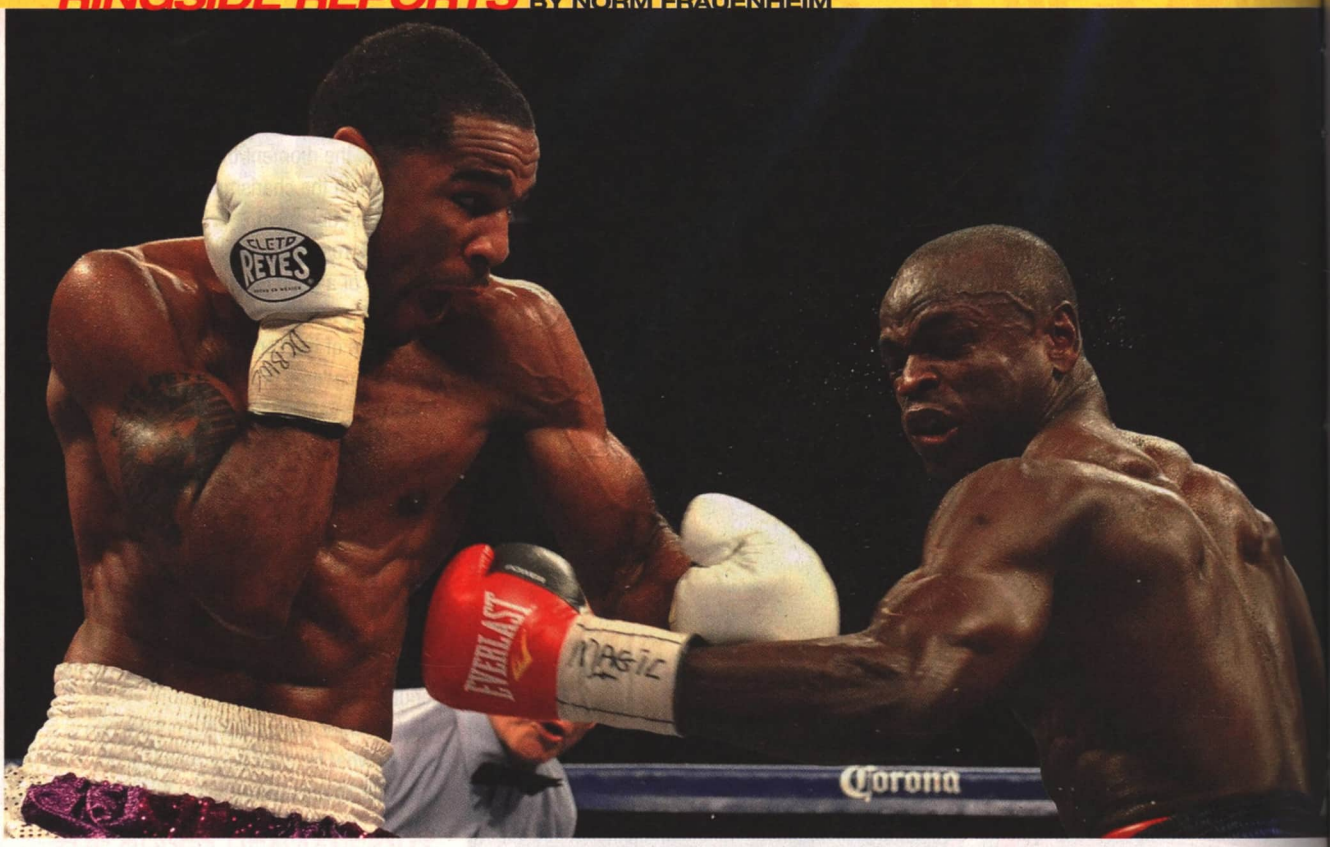
It was just the facts from the Police Academy graduate. But the facts were impressive.

Garcia stubbornly stalked Burgos. Burgos staggered him in the second round, but nothing kept Garcia from pursuing the Mexican with relentless pressure. In the end, it was a tactic that favored Garcia on the cards (118-110, 118-110, 119-109) and in the punch stats. According to CompuBox, Garcia landed 163 punches, including many straight rights and left hooks. Burgos landed just 89.

"To get to Pacquiao I have to move up in weight." Garcia told ringside reporters. "I got to do some other things to finally get to Pacquiao."

Negotiations were underway in February for Garcia to fight Yuriorkis Gamboa at 135 pounds in May. Gamboa (23-0, 16 KOs), who is promoted by 50 Cent, has seen his career stall. He fought only once each year in 2012 and 2013. He was arrested twice for alleged domestic violence. He was linked to Biogenesis, the Florida clinic that reportedly provided performance enhancers to baseball players.

Garcia vs. Gamboa could be called The Cop vs. The Suspect. There has to be some charisma in that.



LAMONT PETERSON UD12 DIERRY JEAN

Date: Jan. 25
Site: DC Armory, Washington, D.C.
Division: Junior welterweight (for Peterson's IBF title)
Weights: Peterson 139.5 pounds; Jean 139.0
RING rating (going into fight): Peterson No. 5; Jean No. 8
Network: Showtime

★ What a way to celebrate a birthday.

Lamont Peterson turned 30 on Jan. 24 and partied the next night with a celebration of some astonishing resilience. It's always been there, so maybe nobody should have been surprised. But Peterson was coming off one of those losses than can turn a young fighter into an old man within just a few rounds. Lucas Matthysse battered Peterson unmercifully in May, dropping him three times within three rounds. It looked as if Peterson's career had come to an abrupt end. But he looked at the loss and saw a new beginning.

On the day after his birthday, he fought as though he had been reborn.

Lamont Peterson (left) had too much ability and experience for the game but overmatched Dierry Jean.

With never even a sign of caution, Peterson (32-2-1, 16 KOs) took immediate control against the mostly unknown and mostly untested Dierry Jean (25-1, 17 KOs), who lost for the first time in only his third bout away from home in Quebec.

Peterson had a reputation as a slow starter. But not this time, perhaps because he didn't want to embolden Jean in the early moments. Early confidence can sometimes create dangerous foes. But Peterson didn't take that chance.

"I knew that this was his first title fight, and it was the big stage," Peterson told ringside reporters. "Regardless of what he said, I knew he would have nerves. I didn't want him to get confidence, so I got on the gas. I didn't want him to have confidence, and I knew at the end of the fight I would be in shape."

The pace, punch count and points belonged to Peterson in a 118-111, 116-112, 115-113 victory on the scorecards. According to CompuBox, Peterson landed 230 punches at a 37 percent rate of accuracy. Jean, who suffered a swelling near his right eye in the fourth round, couldn't keep up, landing only 123 punches at a 22 percent rate of accuracy.

With the convincing performance, Peterson broke back into the mix at both 140 and 147 pounds. He didn't ask for a rematch with Matthysse. Peterson understands that old rule about style. They make fights, and that's why Peterson probably doesn't want to try on a second time. Instead, he wants a shot at Danny Garcia, THE RING's junior welterweight champion who upset Matthysse on the undercard of Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s decision over Canelo Alvarez last September.

"I said to people who asked me about it that I always thought Matthysse would be a harder fight for me stylistically than Danny," Peterson, a Washington D.C. native, said after his victory in front of a hometown crowd. "I know that my style fits better with Danny than Matthysse.

"Danny Garcia is supposed to be the No. 1 guy and rightfully so. I want to be the best at 140 and move up to 147 soon, so the sooner the better." And beyond a losing lifestyle.•

LUIS COLLAZO KO2 VICTOR ORTIZ

Date: Jan. 30
Site: Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Division: Welterweight
Weights: Collazo 146.6 pounds; Ortiz 146.6
RING rating (going into the fight): Neither rated.
Network: Showtime

★ Victor Ortiz's next appearance will be in a sequel. But it'll be a film. Not a fight.

Luis Collazo's second-round knockout left plenty of doubt about whether there's anything left to Ortiz the boxer. Collazo's right hook at 2:59 of the round left Ortiz sprawled across the canvas and looking a lot like a guy searching for the nearest exit.

Ortiz, who has a part in Sylvester Stallone's Expendables Three, said all the right things before answering his first opening bell since Josesito Lopez broke his jaw in June 2012.

He couldn't wait, he said. He bristled at suggestions he was making a comeback. When that first big punch landed, however, Ortiz's stunned eyes seemed to say he was sorry that he ever decided to fight again.

"Between me and him, he told me he was going to retire after this," Collazo (35-5, 18 KOs) told ringside reporters after the Brooklyn native entertained a hometown crowd with an unlikely stoppage. "Let's see if he keeps his word. Let's see what happens."

With Ortiz, nobody can ever be sure what's about to happen. That's been a reason to watch. From a classic display of courage against Andre Berto in a dramatic victory to kissing Floyd Mayweather Jr. in an embarrassing defeat, there has always been a child-like spontaneity in Ortiz. He was fun and exasperating, sometimes all at once. Now, however, it looks as if he might become a full-time actor. In the ring, there just don't seem to be any more roles for him.

"I'm good," said Ortiz (29-5-2, 22 KOs), who in the post-fight interviews might have been talking more about his jaw or his head in the wake of the Collazo punch than the condition of his career. "I got caught, it's no big deal. It happens. I'm just one of the fighters, and I put my heart out there."

Collazo believed all along that he could beat Ortiz in part, he says, because Ortiz didn't take him seriously.

"Absolutely," Collazo said. "I got his attention when I landed that hook, and he didn't get up. I'm just a competitive person. I don't like losing, and I took care of business."

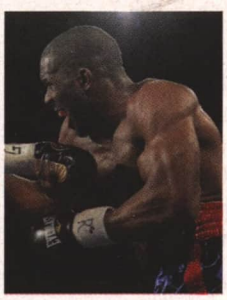
Collazo gained a lot of respect from those who never thought he possessed much punching power. Still, the KO blow – Collazo's first within two rounds in nearly nine years – was probably more about timing and precision than real power.

"It was the shortest hook I ever threw," Collazo said. "It was awesome. I knew he was going to come in wide, and I tried to beat his hook with my hook, and that's exactly what happened."

What it will do for Collazo's career isn't exactly clear. He called out Mayweather in an attempt to get some of the big money that comes with a bout against the pound-for-pound champion.

"I want Floyd Mayweather, in New York City," he said. "I want what the fans want. I want him to come to the Barclays Center here in Brooklyn." •

Victor Ortiz's knockout loss to Luis Collazo (left) in January sent him back to the drawing board.



BRYANT JENNINGS TKO 10 ARTUR SZPILKA

Jan. 25, New York City (HBO)

★ The search for the next great American heavyweight continues. Bryant Jennings is the latest entrant in a quest that thus far has produced only contenders. It's still anybody's guess as to whether Jennings has a better chance than Deontay Wilder or Chris Arreola to do what Seth Mitchell could not.

But he put himself into the race with a thorough beating of Artur Szpilka in The Theater at Madison Square Garden. Jennings said he didn't know much about Szpilka, a self-described soccer hooligan from Poland. As it turned out, Jennings (18-0, 10 KOs) didn't have to know much. He kicked Szpilka around like a soccer ball, scoring a TKO at 2:20 of the 10th.

Jennings rocked Szpilka (16-1, 12 KOs) in the first with a combination. He knocked down Szpilka in the sixth with a body shot and put him down again in the 10th with a left. Szpilka got up, but was driven into the corner by blows that prompted the ring physician to stop it.

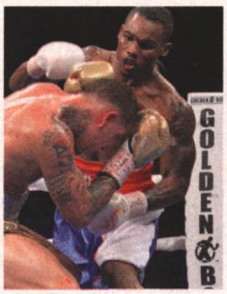
NO. 1 MARCO HUCK TKO 6 NO. 7 FIRAT ARSLAN

Jan. 25, Stuttgart, Germany

★ For Marco Huck, it was a lesson learned and perhaps a reason to move up in weight. For Firat Arslan, it was a tough loss, reason enough to retire.

Huck (37-2-1, 26 KOs) needed a convincing answer to criticism over his lackluster performance in a 2012 cruiserweight decision over Arslan (33-7-2, 21 KOs). Huck got it, knocking down the 43-year-old Arslan twice in the sixth. The referee stopped it at 1:56 of the round.

"I took the first fight much too lightly," said Huck, 29, who lost a disputed decision in 2012 to heavyweight Alexander Povetkin. "I think I've silenced all my critics. My coach said that nobody can beat me when I'm … fit, regardless of whether it's cruiserweight or heavyweight."



NO. 10 JERMELL CHARLO UD 10 GABRIEL ROSADO

Jan. 25, Washington, D.C. (Showtime)

★ Jermell Charlo was sitting on the fence: World-class or world-wannabe?

Against Gabe Rosado, Charlo (23-0, 11 KOs) jumped into world-class waters with an impressive unanimous decision that could turn him into a player at 154 pounds.

"The junior middleweight division has an emerging star in Jermell," Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer said at ringside.

Charlo outworked Rosado (21-8, 13 KOs) en route to a one-sided victory on all three scorecards (100-90, 99-91 and 97-93). Charlo, whose twin brother Jermall was scheduled at press time to fight Carlos Molina on March 8 for a 154-pound title, also was quick to capitalize on a cut over Rosado's left eye.

"I told myself: 'Let's finish this eye off,'" said Charlo, who kept his eyes open and firmly focused on a world-class future.

NO. 1 GENNADY GOLOVKIN TKO 7 OSUMANU ADAMA

Feb.1, Monte Carlo, Monaco

★ It was more of the same from Gennady Golovkin, even if HBO wasn't there to televise a middleweight many want to see and few want to fight.

Golovkin (29-0, 26 KOs) scored his 16th straight stoppage, knocking down Osumanu Adama three times before the bout was stopped at 1:20 of the seventh round.

"I want to fight Sergio Martinez to prove who's the best middleweight," Golovkin said in the ring after flooring Adama (22-4, 16 KOs) in the first with a right, in the sixth with a left and again in the seventh with a jab.

But Martinez, who is scheduled to face Miguel Cotto on June 7, has other ideas. Most do. Fringe contender Andy Lee appeared to be Golovkin's best option in his ongoing plan to stay busy.

GILBERTO RAMIREZ KO 1 DON MOUTON

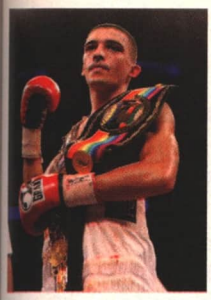
Feb. 1, Laredo, Texas (UniMas TV)

★ Mexico's next hot prospect is beginning to look a lot like middleweight Gilberto Ramirez.

In only his second bout outside of Mexico, nobody got much of a chance to look at him for long. Ramirez, who is promoted by Canelo Alvarez, finished his work in exactly 91 seconds in a two-fisted thrashing of 35-year-old Don Mouton.

Mouton, of Houston, had never been stopped. Against Ramirez (27-0, 21 KOs), he never had a chance. The 22-year-old unleashed an assault that dropped Mouton (12-8-1, 10 KOs) along the ropes. Ramirez didn't wait long to finish what he started, dropping Mouton with a second succession of punches for the quickest stoppage since he scored a 41-second knockout in his 2009 pro debut.

No word yet on what's next for Ramirez. But whenever and wherever it is, don't blink.



LEE SELBY TKO 6 **RENDALL MUNROE**
Feb. 1, Cardiff, Wales (Sky Sports)

★ With Nathan Cleverly still in retirement and Gavin Rees looking as if he might join him, the hunt is on for a new face of Welsh boxing.

Maybe Lee Selby's face.

It appeared in the sixth round against Rendall Munroe in a fight for the British and European featherweight titles. Selby (18-1, 7 KOs) took them both with a ferocious assault that Munroe (27-4-1, 11 KOs) could not stop. Only referee Ian John-Lewis could. He halted it at 1:31 of the sixth with Munroe helpless and trapped in a neutral corner.

There were some complaints about the stoppage. Munroe said it "gutted" him. He had hoped for a chance over the second half of the fight. During the first half, however, there was never a sign that he might launch a comeback against the faster Selby, who controlled the first 5½ rounds with a sustained assault of well executed combinations.

GARY BUCKLAND SD 12 **GAVIN REES**
Feb. 1, Cardiff, Wales (Sky Sports)

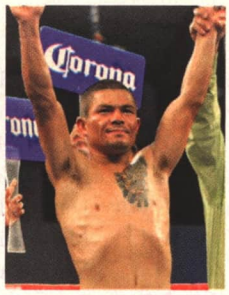
★ Gary Buckland and Gavin Rees are tight. As fighters, these longtime friends were hard to separate – hard to pick one over the other – in a 12-round lightweight bout as thrilling as it was close.

Buckland won it, but not by much. The judges didn't agree, two scoring it for Buckland (116-113 and 115-114) and one for Rees (116-113).

"It could have gone either way," Buckland (28-3, 9 KOs) told Sky Sports in what was a mild understatement after a mild upset.

Rees (37-4-1, 18 KOs) appeared to control the fight early, rocking Buckland with body shots and cutting him above his right eye. But Buckland survived and stormed back to grab a narrow victory. After it was over, Rees told Sky Sports that he would think about retirement.

"I've lost three in a row now, and I'm nearly 34," said Rees, a one-time junior welterweight champion.



OSWALDO NOVOA TKO 5 **NO. 3 XIONG ZHAO ZHONG**
Feb. 5, Haikou, China

★ Minimum weight. Major footnote.

If China ever becomes a big-time boxing market, Xiong Zhao Zhong and Oswaldo Novoa will become part of its beginning, or, at the very least, answers to a trivia question.

Xiong is China's first to win a major title. He's also the first to lose one. Novoa took it from him with a fifth-round stoppage for the WBC strawweight crown.

Novoa (13-4-1, 8 KOs) traveled far for his first fight outside of Mexico. But he came home with more than just frequent-flier miles. Novoa, who had been fighting at 108 and 112 pounds, went down to 105 to challenge Xiong (22-5-1, 12 KOs), who won the title in 2012 with a decision over Javier Martinez Resendiz.

Novoa had advantages in height and reach, which he used to rock Xiong several times. By the fourth, Xiong began to tire. In the fifth, Novoa hurt him with a left-right combo, prompting the referee to stop it at 2:36 of the round.

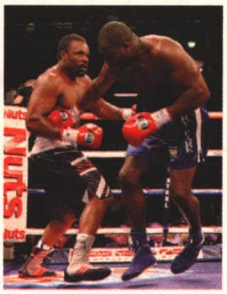
FIDEL MALDONADO JR. TKO 4 **JOHN NATER**
Feb. 10, San Antonio (Fox 1)

★ Albuquerque junior welterweight Fidel Maldonado Jr. did the predictable. Stand-ins aren't supposed to last long, and John Nater didn't.

Four days before the opening bell, Nater, of Puerto Rico, agreed to be a substitute for Steve Forbes, a former world champion who failed a pre-fight physical for undisclosed reasons.

After four rounds, Nater (13-5, 10 KOs) was finished. Maldonado (18-2, 15 KOs) overpowered him, knocking him down twice, first in the third with a body shot and then a succession of left hooks.

The second knockdown came late in the fourth. The round ended. Nater went to his corner and took a seat. That's where the fight ended. His corner told the referee and ringside physician that Nater wouldn't answer the bell for the fifth.



DERECK CHISORA UD 12 **KEVIN JOHNSON**
Feb. 15, London (Sky Sports)

★ Dereck Chisora didn't exactly celebrate. He won, but his heavyweight victory didn't include a promised knockout of American Kevin Johnson. Chisora's unanimous decision over Johnson also didn't generate much in the way of praise. More like an insult.

"He is a bum," said Tyson Fury, whose victory over Joey Abell on the same London card promises to result in a rematch of his 2011 decision over Chisora.

The best that can be said about Chisora (20-4, 13 KOs) is that he moved closer to the Fury rematch with a dull, yet clear decision over Johnson (29-5-1, 14 KOs).

Chisora managed to score a knockdown in the fifth with an overhand right, but could do little else in scoring a 118-109, 118-110, 118-109 victory on the cards.

"Kevin came to survive," Chisora told Sky Sports after a bout without any real winners.

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH FIGHTS OF FEB. 16 (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Irineu Beato Costa Jr. UD 12 Daniel Sanabria
Bryant Jennings TKO 10 Artur Szpilka
Travis Kauffman UD 10 Vincent Thompson
Newfel Ouatah KO 4 Gregory Tony
Billy Wright TKO 5 Chauncy Welliver
Dereck Chisora UD 12 Kevin Johnson
Tyson Fury TKO 4 Joey Abell

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Thabiso Mchunu UD 10 Olanrewaju Durodola
Marco Huck TKO 6 Firat Arslan
Victor Emilio Ramirez TKO 4 Danny Santiago
Ilunga Makabu KO 2 Ruben Angel Mino
Murat Gassiev UD 12 Ismail Abdoul
Denton Daley UD 12 Andres Taylor
Micki Nielsen UD 10 Gogita Gorgiladze
Youri Kalenga KO 3 Cesar David Crenz

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Roberto Bolonti KO 6 Jose Clavero
Thomas Williams Jr. TKO 1 Cornelius White

Heavyweight contender Dereck Chisora (right) was focused in a one-sided victory over Kevin Johnson Feb. 15 in London.

Enrico Koelling TKO 3 Paata Aduashvili
Sean Monaghan TKO 1 Matt Vanda
Blake Caparello UD 10 Elvir Muriqi
Isidro Ranoni Prieto KO 1 Rogerio Damasco
Erik Skoglund TKO 12 Adasat Rodriguez

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Tyron Zeuge UD 10 George Beroshvili
Bilel Latreche W 10 Cedric Bellais
Mariano Hilario TKO 8 Samy Anouche
Hassan N'Dam N'Jikam TKO 4 Ricardo Ramallo
Frank Buglioni TKO 5 Gaetano Nespro

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Curtis Stevens TKO 1 Patrick Majewski
Emanuele Blandamura SD 12 Marcos Nader
Anthony Mundine UD 10 Gunnar Jackson
Jarrod Fletcher UD 12 Max Bursak
Gennady Golovkin TKO 7 Osumanu Adama
Gilberto Ramirez Sanchez TKO 1 Don Mouton
Roberto Garcia SD 10 Norberto Gonzalez
Patrick Nielsen KO 2 Tony Jeter

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Cornelius Bundrage UD 12 Joey Hernandez
Jermell Charlo UD 10 Gabriel Rosado
Eddie Gomez UD 10 Daquan Arnett
Navid Mansoori TKO 5 Matthew Mallin
Sherzod Husanov UD 12 Carlos Adan Jerez

WELTERWEIGHTS

Luis Collazo KO 2 Victor Ortiz
(F) Cecilia Braekhus UD 10 Myriam Lamare
Roman Belaev UD 12 Dean Byrne
Konstantin Ponomarev UD 10 Ramon de la Cruz Sena
Chris van Heerden TKO 4 Cosme Rivera
Diego Chaves TKO 3 Juan Alberto Godoy
Bradley Skeete UD 12 Christopher Sebire

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Antonio Orozco KO 2 Miguel Angel Huerta
Ruben Nieto UD 12 Samuele Esposito
Jairo Lopez TKO 10 Jesus Rojas
Lamont Peterson UD 12 Dierry Jean
Chris Jenkins UD 10 Christopher Sebire
Fidel Maldonado Jr. TKO 4 John Nater
Chris Algieri UD 10 Emmanuel Taylor

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Rafael Mensah TKO 4 Mouibi Serouna
Emiliano Marsili UD 12 Pasquale Di Silvio
Gary Buckland SD 12 Gavin Rees
Ghislain Maduma KO 3 John Carlo Aparicio
Diego Magdaleno KO 4 Jorge Pazos

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Adrian Estrella TKO 5 Yuta Matsuda
Mikey Garcia UD 12 Juan Carlos Burgos
Carlos Diaz Ramirez KO 6 Miguel Beltran Jr.
Rikki Naito TKO 8 Hiroyasu Matsuzaki
Romain Jacob SD 12 Devis Boschiero

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Alberto Garza KO 7 Eduardo Rios
Rico Ramos UD 10 Jonathan Arrellano
Adeilson Dos Santos TKO 6 Carlos Suarez
Jezreel Corrales DQ 10 Eusebio Osejo
Yasutaka Ishimoto KO 1 Zun Rindam
Jesus Galicia KO 10 Oscar Gonzalez
Lee Selby TKO 6 Rendall Munroe
Jonathan Victor Barros KO 1 Cid Ribeiro
Raul Hirales TKO 8 Fernando Vargas
Romulo Koasicha UD 12 Marcos Cardenas
Rene Alvarado TKO 9 Robinson Castellanos
Jessie Magdaleno TKO 5 Roberto Castaneda

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Shingo Wake KO 2 Jovylito Aligarbes
Rodrigo Guerrero TKO 7 Daniel Rosas

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Suriyan Sor Rungvisai UD 12 Fernando Ocon
Julio Ceja TKO 4 Jesus Acosta
Marlon Tapales UD 10 Galih Susanto

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

No major fights

FLYWEIGHTS

Amnat Ruenroeng UD 12 Rocky Fuentes
Armando Santos MD 12 Silvio Olteanu
Ardin Diale TKO 2 Kaichon Sor Vorapin
Kwanpichit OnesongchaiGym MD 12 Jay-ar Estremos
Roman Gonzalez TKO 6 Juan Kantun

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Yu Kimura SD 10 Kenichi Horikawa
Rey Loreto KO 3 Nkosinathi Joyi
Vergilio Silvano UD 10 Mark Anthony Florida
Adrian Hernandez TKO 3 Janiel Rivera

STRAWWEIGHTS

Oswaldo Novoa TKO 5 Xiong Zhao Zhong
(F) Mako Yamada SD 10 Su-Yun Hong

PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.

MARCH

SERGEY KOVALEV VS. CEDRIC AGNEW

March 29, Atlantic City, N.J.

Division: Light heavyweights (for Kovalev's WBO title)

TV: HBO

Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Also fighting: Lionell Thompson vs. Radivoje Kalajdzic, light heavyweights

Significance: Kovalev (23-0-1, 21 KOs) is must-see TV, having overwhelmed a string of capable opponents with mesmerizing ferocity and power to go with solid ability. Agnew (26-0, 13 KOs) was a good amateur and has beaten some good pros, but this is a challenging assignment.

Prediction: Rosenthal – Kovalev KO 5; Fischer – Kovalev KO 5; Satterfield – Kovalev KO 4

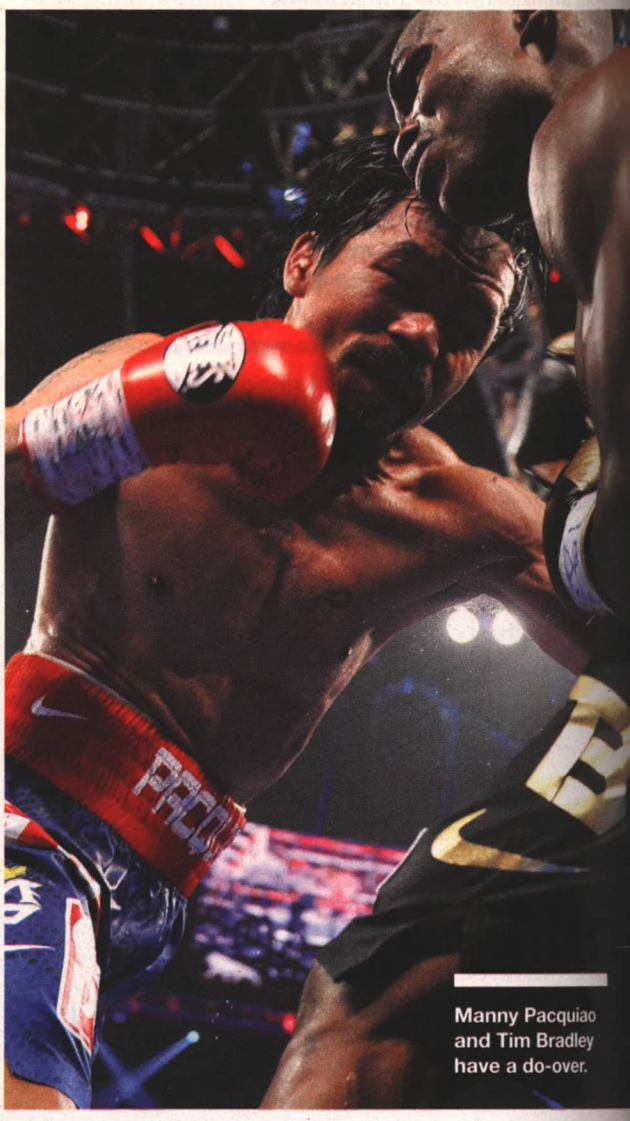
MARCH 29 – Yoan Pablo Hernandez vs. Pawel Kolodziej, cruiserweights (for Hernandez's RING and IBF titles), Berlin

MARCH 29 – Johnriel Casimero vs. Mauricio Fuentes, junior flyweights (for Casimero's IBF junior title), Manila

MARCH 29 – Stuart Hall vs. Martin Ward, bantamweights (for Hall's IBF title), Newcastle, England

Sergey Kovalev is as hot as any fighter in the world.

APRIL



Manny Pacquiao and Tim Bradley have a do-over.

MANNY PACQUIAO VS. TIM BRADLEY II

April 12, MGM Grand, Las Vegas

Division: Welterweights

TV: HBO Pay Per View

Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★

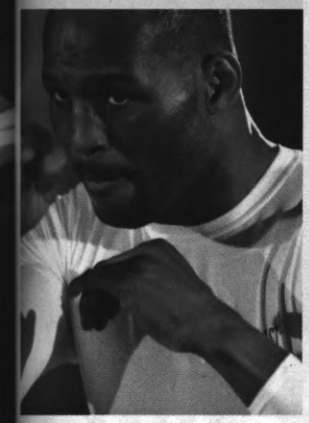
Also fighting: Khabib Allakhverdiev vs. Jessie Vargas, junior welterweights (for Allakhverdiev's WBA title); Raymundo Beltran vs. Roman Martinez, lightweights; Bryan Vasquez vs. Jose Felix Jr., junior lightweights

Significance: Pacquiao (55-5-2, 38 KOs) lost a controversial decision to Bradley (31-0, 12 KOs) in June 2012 and then was stopped by Juan Manuel Marquez. He bounced back by outpointing Brandon Rios. Bradley, coming off an impressive victory over Marquez, is a much sterner test.

Prediction: Rosenthal – Pacquiao UD; Fischer – Bradley SD; Satterfield – Bradley MD

BEIBUT SHUMENOV VS. BERNARD HOPKINS

April 19, DC Armory, Washington, D.C.



Division: Light heavyweights (title unification)

TV: Showtime

Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★

Significance: Hopkins (54-6-2, 32 KOs) recently turned 49 but continues to roll along. Shumenov (14-1, 9 KOs) is inexperienced and somewhat crude, which seems to make him an ideal foil for this version of Hopkins.

Prediction: Rosenthal – Hopkins UD; Fischer – Hopkins UD; Satterfield – Hopkins SD

GENNADY GOLOVKIN VS. ANDY LEE

April 26, Theater at Madison Square Garden, New York City

Division: Middleweights (for Golovkin's WBA title)

TV: HBO

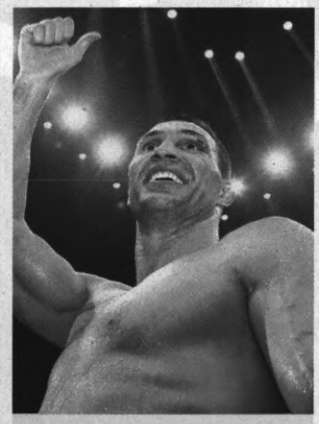
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

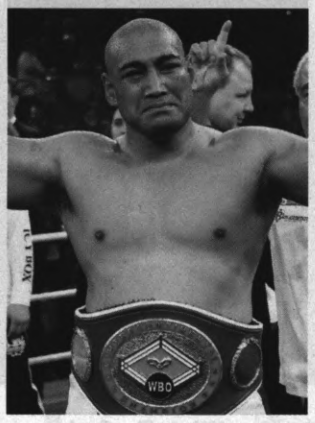
Significance: Golovkin (29-0, 26 KOs) has tried but failed thus far to lure a big-name opponent into the ring. Meanwhile, he has KO'd his last 16 foes. Next victim: Lee (31-2, 22 KOs), who has some ability but not the tools to fend off Golovkin. This fight was not finalized at press time.

Prediction: Rosenthal – Golovkin KO 7; Fischer – Golovkin KO 8; Satterfield – Golovkin KO 3

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO VS. ALEX LEAPAI

April 26, Oberhausen, Germany





Division: Heavyweights (for Klitschko's RING, IBF, WBO and WBA titles)

TV: None in U.S. at press time

Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★ ★ ★

Significance: Klitschko (61-3, 51 KOs) is making his 16th defense in his current reign as champ. He has won 19 consecutive fights, dating back to 2004. Leapai (30-4-3, 24 KOs), a squat, 34-year-old Somoan-Australian, earned the right to lose to Klitschko by outpointing Denis Boytsov.

Prediction: Rosenthal – Klitschko KO 9; Fischer – Klitschko KO 7; Satterfield – Klitschko KO 8

APRIL 4 – Carl Frampton vs. Hugo Cazares, junior featherweights, Belfast, Northern Ireland

APRIL 5 – Juergen Braehmer vs. Enzo Maccarinelli, light heavyweights, Rostock, Germany

APRIL 5 – Marco Antonio Rubio vs. Domenico Spada, middleweights, Mexico

APRIL 6 – Akira Yaegashi vs. Odilon Zaleta, flyweights (for Yaegashi's RING and WBC titles), Tokyo

APRIL 6 – Adrian Hernandez vs. Naoya Inoue, junior flyweights (for Hernandez's WBC title), Tokyo

APRIL 19 – Orlando Cruz vs. Gamalier Rodriguez, featherweights, Orlando, Fla. (UniMas)

APRIL 23 – Shinsuke Yamanaka vs. Stephane Jamoye, bantamweights (for Yamanaka's WBC title, Osaka, Japan

APRIL 23 – Kiko Martinez vs. Hozumi Hasegawa, junior featherweights (for Martinez's IBF title), Osaka, Japan

APRIL 24 – Josesito Lopez vs. Aaron Martinez, junior welterweights (ESPN2)

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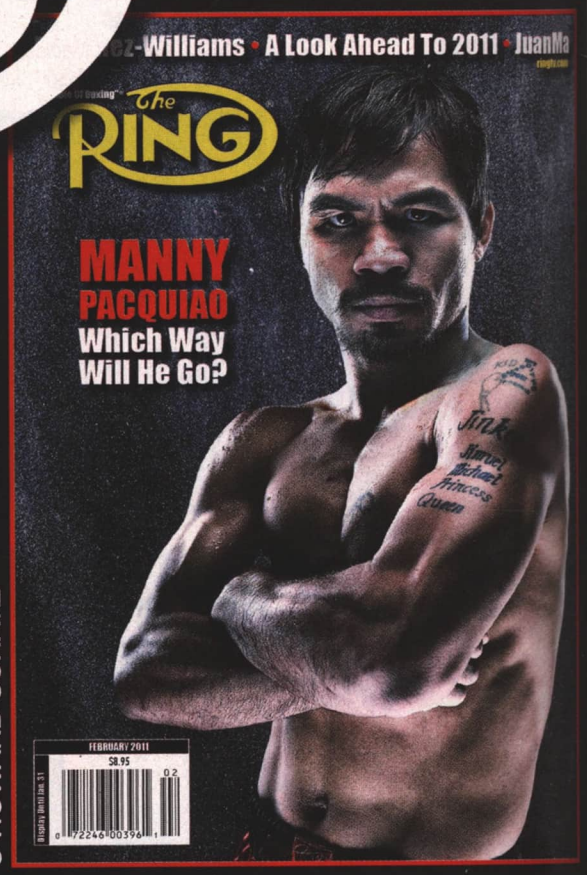

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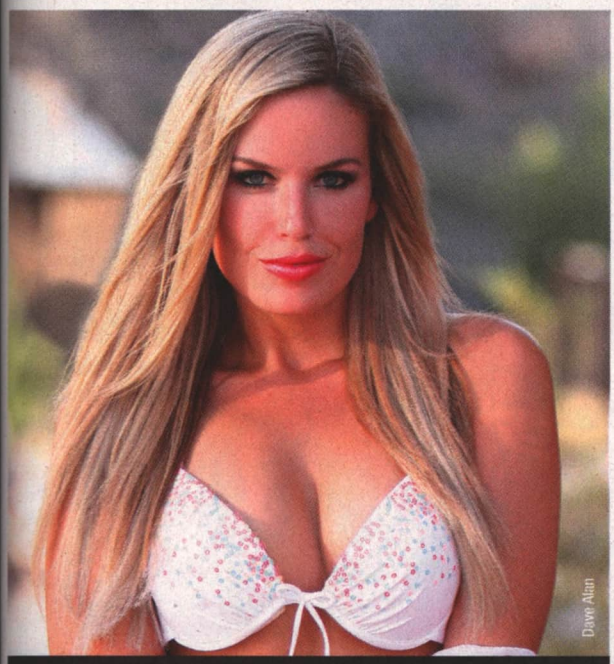
THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH
BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ



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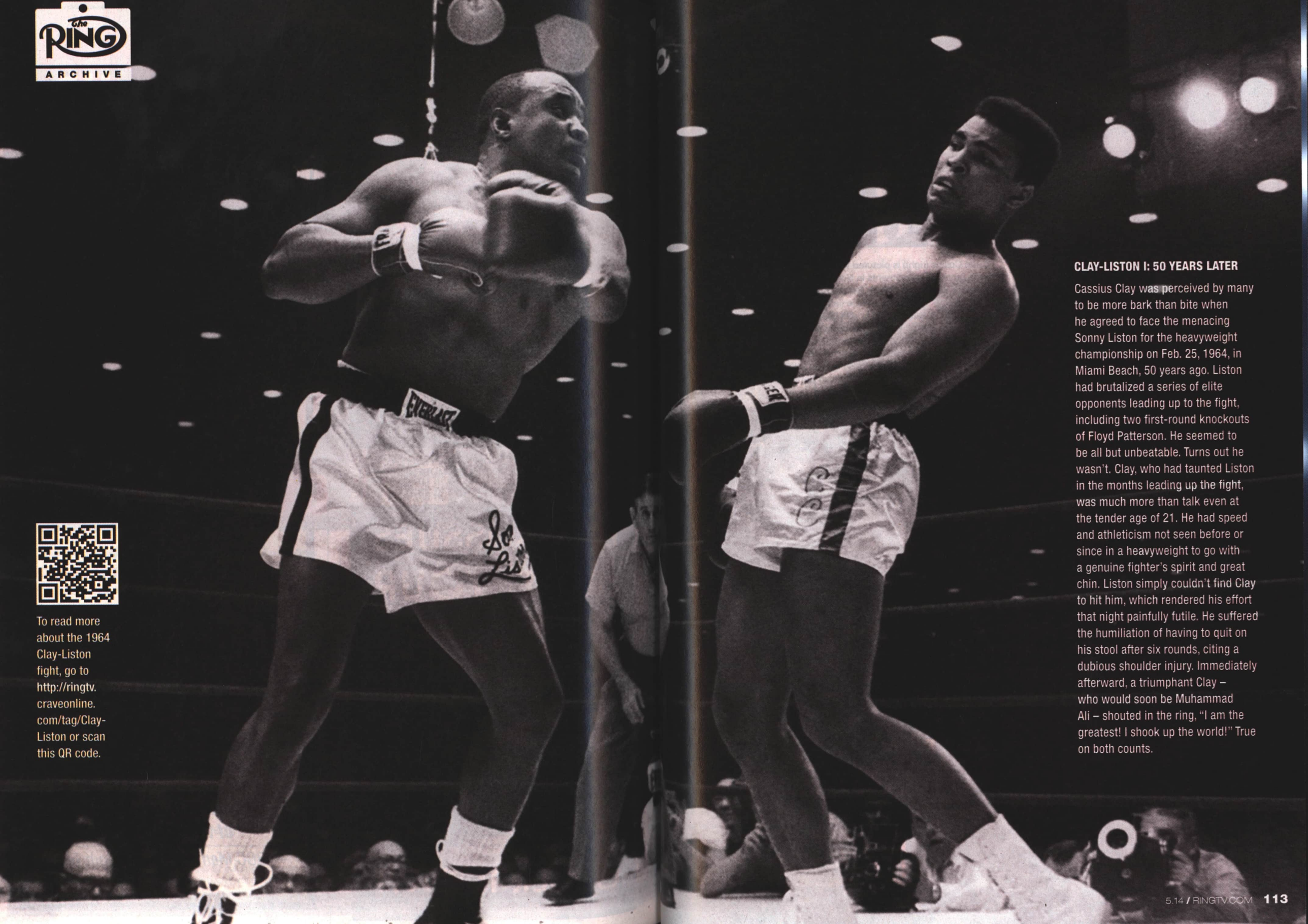
— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres



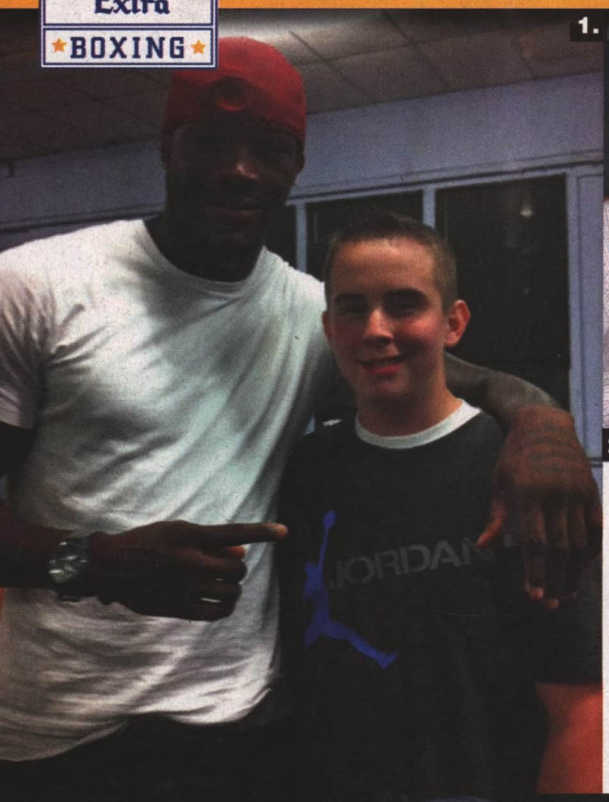
To read more about the 1964 Clay-Liston fight, go to http://ringtv.craveonline.com/tag/Clay-Liston or scan this QR code.

CLAY-LISTON I: 50 YEARS LATER

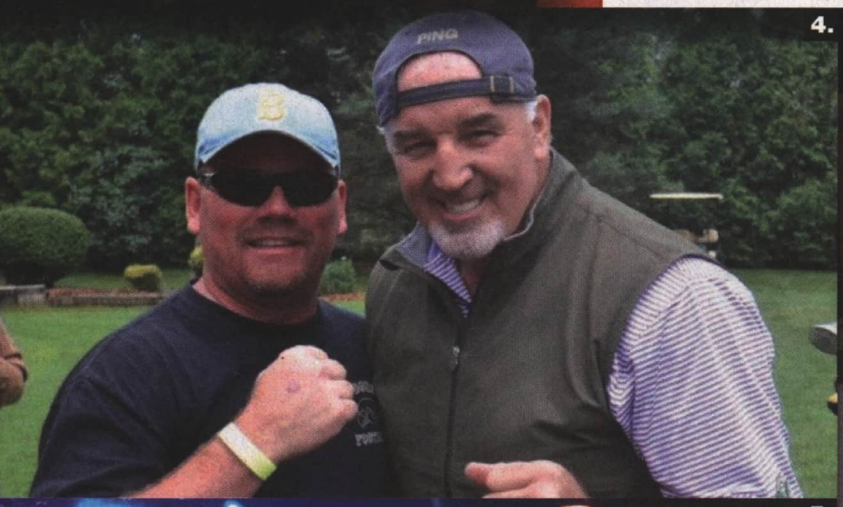
Cassius Clay was perceived by many to be more bark than bite when he agreed to face the menacing Sonny Liston for the heavyweight championship on Feb. 25, 1964, in Miami Beach, 50 years ago. Liston had brutalized a series of elite opponents leading up to the fight, including two first-round knockouts of Floyd Patterson. He seemed to be all but unbeatable. Turns out he wasn't. Clay, who had taunted Liston in the months leading up the fight, was much more than talk even at the tender age of 21. He had speed and athleticism not seen before or since in a heavyweight to go with a genuine fighter's spirit and great chin. Liston simply couldn't find Clay to hit him, which rendered his effort that night painfully futile. He suffered the humiliation of having to quit on his stool after six rounds, citing a dubious shoulder injury. Immediately afterward, a triumphant Clay – who would soon be Muhammad Ali – shouted in the ring, "I am the greatest! I shook up the world!" True on both counts.

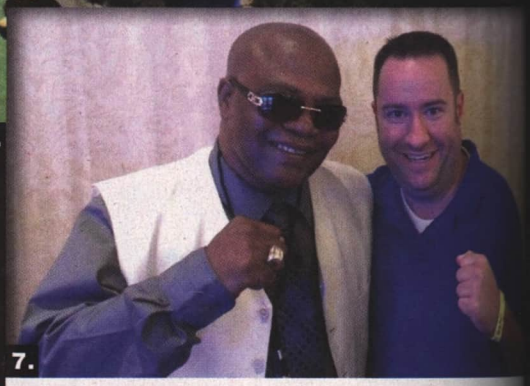
Corona Extra BOXING

AT THE FIGHTS



1. Cade Collins (right) is pictured with Deontay Wilder at one of the young boxer's amateur tournaments in November. **2.** Matthew Becher (left) is with Andre Ward at the Mikey Garcia-Juan Carlos Burgos card Jan. 25 in New York City. **3.** Frank Genovese (left) is with Paulie Malignaggi at Garcia-Burgos. **4.** Dave Wilcox (left) is with Gerry Cooney on the golf course during a recent International Boxing Hall of Fame Induction weekend in Canastota, N.Y. **5.** David Oren (right) is with Sergey Kovalev at Garcia-Burgos. **6.** Jake Gongora (left) is with Peter Quillin at the Malignaggi-Zab Judah card Dec. 7 in Brooklyn, N.Y. **7.** Jason Lewis (right) is with Hall of Famer Aaron Pryor at the Fight Night at Horseshoe card last September in Cincinnati, Pryor's hometown.





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